Trade and Industry

16 July 1976 25p

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TUES	**1000**		**1835**			**2210**
	*2045	WED 0505		WED 0800		
WED	*1000	1825			2135	2305
THURS	**1000**		**1835**			**2210**
FRI	**1000**	**1825**		**2135**		
	*2045		SAT 0515		SAT 0805	SAT 0935
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ENCIRCLE TI 119 ON PAGE 213 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Trade and Industry

16 July 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

The West Midlands – the heart of England. This week's special feature concentrates on industry in the region. Among its contributors are representatives of government departments, of industry – from cars to ceramics – and the chairman of the nation's new international shopping centre, the National Exhibition Centre. They write about the help from government for industry in the West Midlands and about industry's plans and optimism for the future.

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Home News

Compensation for overbooked airline passengers

The Civil Aviation Authority has announced that passengers who book or confirm scheduled flights in the UK may now be eligible for compensation if they are prevented from taking these flights because they have been overbooked.

The airlines have drawn up a voluntary scheme for compensating such passengers, in which both UK and foreign airlines may participate. The CAA is not therefore for the time being proceeding with the mandatory scheme of compensation for passengers which was envisaged in its report on overbooking published in January of this year. To date all but one very small British airline operating scheduled services have signed the agreement for a voluntary scheme and 12 foreign airlines have also agreed to participate.

Eligibility for compensation

Under the scheme, passengers will be eligible for compensation provided:

1 They have booked or, if so required by the airline, confirmed their booking in the United Kingdom
2 They are denied carriage on the flight for which they have booked because of overbooking, and
3 The airline concerned has not been able to provide alternative transport to enable the passenger to reach his or her proposed destination within two hours (in the case of domestic flights) or four hours (in other cases) of the original scheduled time of arrival.

The amount of compensation will normally be equivalent to half the value of the ticket for the flight on which the passenger is refused carriage, subject to a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £100. This compensation will be additional to the payment of reasonable expenses (eg accommodation, meals, telephone calls) incurred while awaiting alternative transport.

As an alternative to accepting compensation under the scheme a passenger may pursue his rights at law which may include damages for proved financial loss.

Full particulars of the compensation scheme can be obtained from the airlines participating in it.

The assisted areas

As a result of production difficulties, the map of the assisted areas published last week (page 77) inadvertently showed Merseyside as a Development Area instead of as a Special Development Area, and omitted parts of Derbyshire which are an Intermediate Area. The map published on 11 June (page 641) shows the correct status of the areas.

Industry Minister at BSC's Corby works

Leslie Huckfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the Department of Industry accompanied by Mr. N. Lott, Regional Director of the East Midlands Regional Office, Department of Industry visited BSC's Corby Works, Northamptonshire on 9 July.
Mr. Huckfield (second from right), who is also MP for Nuneaton, is seen here with (left to right): Mr. Lott; Mr. J. Rogerson, technical manager, general manager's department; Mr. J. Ellis, manager, BOS Plant, Steelmaking Department; and Mr. C. E. Veall, director, Corby Works Group.

Insurance Companies Act 1974: authorisations and revocations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under Section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 June to 30 June 1976.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
Chain Insurance Co. Ltd. 59 Knowesley Street, Manchester	—	14.6.76	PROP

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were revoked by the Secretary of State for Trade under Section 9 of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 June to 30 June 1976.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of revocation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was revoked
Frome Mutual Plate Glass Protection Society, 21 King Street, Frome	—	10.6.76	PROP
The Melton Mowbray Plate Glass Insurance Co. Ltd., 44 Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0HR	—	18.6.76	PROP

Classes of business:

I	Industrial assurance business
LIAB	Liability insurance business
MAT	Marine, aviation and transport insurance business
MV	Motor vehicle insurance business
OLT	Ordinary long term insurance business
PL	Pecuniary loss insurance business
PA	Personal accident insurance business
PROP	Property insurance business

With reference to *Trade and Industry* of 18 June 1976, the insertion in regard to authorisations revoked during the period 1 May to 31 May 1976; the third column heading should read date of revocation not date of authorisation as printed.

New company takes over Maesteg factory

A 2,137m² (23,000 sq ft) government factory at Maesteg has been allocated to a new company which will make kitchen furniture. Master Craft Furniture Ltd. is a subsidiary of the Bridgend-based Christie-Tyler group. The company now employs 25 people, and expects to increase its labour force to 100 within two years.

The Christie-Tyler group mainly produces upholstered furniture, and the Maesteg factory will be the first in the group to make kitchen furniture on a regular basis. Master Craft Furniture Ltd. will start with the manufacture of pinewood tables, and will later extend the range into chairs and benches. Production is expected to start this month.

20,000th inquirer for Small Firms Information Centre

The North West Small Firms Information Centre, set up by the Department of Industry in 1974, dealt with its 20,000th inquirer on 29 June and became the first regional centre outside London to reach this figure.

Mr. Noel Belam, Regional Director of the Department, commented: 'This is another significant landmark for our centre. The rate of inquiries is averaging about 200 a week, confirming that the centre is now firmly established and well used by the small firms sector. The effectiveness of the service depends on the ready co-operation of all our information contacts and we are very grateful for their continued help.'

The North West Small Firms Information Centre in Manchester is one of 10 regional centres set up by the Department of Industry to provide a local reference point to which small firms can turn to find quickly the appropriate source of information and help on their day-to-day problems. This service – which is free, fast and confidential – is available to all firms engaged in manufacturing, distribution, retailing and other service industries. Inquiries can be made by telephone, telex, letter or personal call. Extensive use is being made of the Freefone facility (Freefone No. 6005) by which telephone inquiries can be made without charge from any part of the North West.

NRDC and Saudi Arabian investment company form new company

A new company – British Arabian Advisory Co. Ltd. – has been registered following an agreement between the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), and the Saudi Arabian Investment Co. Ltd.

The new company will contract to supply to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East

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Telex 885485
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INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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countries, where appropriate and available, UK technology and expertise, particularly that emanating from government and quasi-government research establishments and British universities.

NRDC is a public corporation established to ensure that technical innovation arising within the UK is put to the best possible use. The Saudi Arabian Investment Co. Ltd., with headquarters in Jeddah, provides consulting and other professional services, property development and investments in industrial joint ventures in the Middle East.

Work starts on advance factory at Camborne . . .

Work is about to start on an 1,800m² (20,000 sq. ft) advance factory for the Department of Industry on the Cardrew Industrial Estate, Camborne, Cornwall.

A contract worth about £197,000 has been awarded to E. Thomas & Co. Ltd., of Truro. Architects are Geoffrey Bazeley & Miller-Williams of St. Austell and quantity surveyors are Gleeds (Plymouth) of Plymouth.

The premises should be ready for occupation early in 1977. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease to: Mr. V. T. Brookes, Department of Industry, Phoenix House, Notte Street, Plymouth PL1 2HF (tel: Plymouth (0752) 218914) or Regional Director, Department of Industry, 1 The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB (tel: Bristol (0272) 291071).

. . . and at Rotherham

Work will soon start on a 1,350m² (15,000 sq. ft.] advance factory for the Department of Industry at Wortley Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

A contract worth about £119,000 has been awarded to F. P. A. Finnegan Limited of Sheffield. Architects are Hadfield, Cawkwell, Davidson and Partners of Sheffield.

The premises should be ready early in 1977. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds (tel: Leeds (0532) 443171).

BTA film wins two international prizes

The BTA film 'Windows on the Past' has been awarded a prize in the section for Information Films at the 'Peoples and Countries' International Film Festival at La Spezia, Italy, and first prize in the Eighth International Festival of Teaching Films for television, held before the 1976 Rome Fair.

'Windows on the Past' is a 20-minute colour film on museums in Britain. It is designed to encourage visitors to explore history by visiting museums. These include the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, the Bowes Museum in County Durham, the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh, the Maritime Museum, Greenwich and the Shuttleworth Collection of historic aeroplanes at Old Warden Aerodrome, Bedfordshire.

This film also won the first prize in the travel film festival at the Internationale Tourismus Börse in Berlin in 1975.

The film was produced for the British Tourist Authority by Rayant Pictures. It was written and directed by Norman Prouting. Director of photography was Michael Boultbee. It was edited by Alvin Bailey and the commentator was Michael Aspel.

'Windows of the Past' and other BTA films can be hired through the Transport and Travel Film Library, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6LP, tel. 01-262 3232, ext. 6608/9.

Wide expansion of overseas markets – and an increase of 135.7 per cent in exports – has led specialist surface coating manufacturers, Stewart Wales, Somerville Ltd. to make a considerable extension to its factory at East Kilbride, Glasgow. The extension was officially opened by Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State, Scottish Office, who congratulated the company on its record since opening the East Kilbride factory in 1968. The founder and managing director, A. Stewart Wales had led his firm into exciting overseas markets and had also led a number of Scottish trade missions to Europe, the Far East and Africa, and had only recently returned from a mission to Egypt and Libya. Mr. MacKenzie is seen performing the opening ceremony. On his right is Mr. Stewart Wales and on his left George Young, managing director of East Kilbride and Stonehouse Development Corporation.

Oil pollution and S & R exercises off Teesside

The Department of Trade, in conjunction with local authorities and other organisations, held an exercise in Tees Bay – within two to five miles off the Heugh, Hartlepool – on 8 July to test its contingency arrangements for dealing with an oil spill in that area.

In the exercise (Code name Teesoyl), oil was assumed to be leaking from a merchant vessel the SS *Oylup*, which was listing badly due to movement of cargo. It was assumed that the ship settles and sinks.

The Department's oil pollution prevention organisation, including tugs from Teesport and Hartlepool equipped for spraying dispersant, dealt with the 'oil' at sea. A RAF pinnace flying a large red flag represented the centre of the largest patch of oil.

The operation was controlled from the Department's Marine Survey Office, Newcastle, with a forward Oil Control Centre at Teesmouth Coastguard Station.

Phillips Petroleum Co. Ltd., Cleveland Constabulary and the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority co-operated in the exercise. County oil pollution officers were alerted to bring into operation the organisation for cleaning up the beaches.

A search and rescue exercise was carried out by the Teesmouth Coastguards: with participation by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Royal Air Force. The object: to recover the crew of the merchant vessel who, it was assumed, had abandoned ship.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842.

Price Commission interventions during June

During June the Price Commission rejected seven notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Categories I and II. In another 21 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notifications of intended increases and in 47 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the commission. See lists below.

Since the beginning of Stage 4 on 20 December 1974, the commission has rejected a total of 251 notifications and modified 1,192. 410 notifications were withdrawn.

During June, following discussions with the Price Commission, seven distributors in Category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £1.36 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category III, the commission's Regional Offices secured the agreement of 371 distributors, 53 manufacturers, 70 service enterprises, 20 professional enterprises and 15 construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £11.08 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional offices secured a total of 47 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation of complaints about prices increases.

Notes

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by Category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28 day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented.

Announcements about price increases where the Price Commission has not intervened are the responsibility of the company imposing the increase.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Murex Ltd.	Positioners, roller beds columns and booms, welding heads, power sources accessories	22.07
Phillips Imperial Petroleum Ltd.	Fuel oil, gas oil/derv, naphtha, regular kerosene	10.16
Wallacetown Engineering Co. Ltd.	A62 fuse switch range	13.90
Category II		
Lovell and Christmas (Northern) Ltd.	Spam spread	12.90
Murphy Chemicals Ltd.	Home and grower products	10.17
	Farm and grower products	2.02
Reo Stakis Organisation Ltd.	Food and apartment charges	3.15

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Ciba-Geigy (UK) Ltd.	'Phenidone' industrial chemical	9.90
Henry Cooke Ltd.	Paper	6.25
Hotpoint Ltd.	Range of domestic appliances and associated servicing	Not quantified
ICI Ltd.	Acetone cyanohydrin	9.54
	Sodium carbonate	2.29
	Sodium carbonate	1.46
The Nestle Co. Ltd.	Canned and dehydrated soups	2.00
O.P. Chocolate Ltd.	Private label chocolate bars and confectionery	20.41
Van Den Berghs and Jurgens Ltd.	Yellow and white fats	3.65
	Yellow and white fats	0.10
Wiggins Teape Ltd.	Paper and pulp products	8.50
Category II		
Bovril Ltd.	Bovril	4.00
British Tool Manufacturers Ltd.	Hand tools	5.46
Bury and Masco Industries Ltd.	Car carpets	1.54
Carter Bros. (Billingshurst) Ltd.	Plastic pipe and film	10.18
Favor Parker Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	4.13
Fox's Biscuits Ltd.	Biscuits	7.42
Wm. Jackson and Sons Ltd.	Bread	4.88
Sandoz Products Ltd.	Fluorescent brightening agent	5.54
Tipper Bros. (Tubes) Ltd.	Welded tube	10.59
Whitecroft-Scovill Ltd.	Nyguard zippers, heavy duty fasteners	Not quantified

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made (percentage points)
Category I			
Birmidal Developments Ltd.	Ferrous castings	12.58	0.30
British Industrial Plastics Ltd.	PVC resins and compounds	8.58	0.99
Colborn Vitafeeds Ltd.	Animal feed supplements	10.59	0.05
Dartmouth Auto Castings Ltd.	Heavy duty iron castings	7.07	0.51
The Firth Co. Ltd.	Wire and wire products	2.17	0.60
Firth Cleveland Extrusions Ltd.	Nuts	15.00	1.10
Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co. (GB) Ltd.	Vitafilm packaging material	9.53	0.03
Lentheric Morny Ltd.	Toilet preparations and soap products	10.23	0.28
T. Lucas and Co. Ltd.	Rusk and crumb	4.66	1.60
Plessey Telecommunications Ltd.	Range of mining equipment	27.39	1.54
Satchwell Sunvic Ltd.	Controls for domestic and industrial heating	11.02	0.92
Trust Houses Forte Catering Ltd.	Fish, meat and bakery dishes	6.30	0.02
U.G. Closure and Plastics Ltd.	Plastic containers and cork closures	8.84	0.26
Category II			
Alfa-Laval Co. Ltd.	Milking equipment	11.80	1.40
Barton Conduits Ltd.	Steel tube and conduits fittings	6.90	0.30
Joseph Billingham Ltd.	Engineers' manufactured goods	7.50	0.50
Brickhouse Dudley Ltd.	Steel manhole covers and frames	5.00	0.50
British Relay Wireless and Television Ltd.	Rental charges to existing and new subscribers	5.33	0.33
British Tool Manufacturers Ltd.	Hand tools	10.71	0.74
Bruntons (Musselburgh) Ltd.	Cold rolled strip	6.37	0.12
Castlegreen Storage and Distribution Ltd.	Rents and handling charges for bonded goods and general storage charges	12.21	0.18
Coated Strip Ltd.	Pre-coated metal strip	13.64	0.02
Corning Ltd.	Medical/analytical instruments	6.83	0.06
Ever Ready Co. (GB) Ltd.	Dry (primary) batteries and flashlight cases	7.17	0.75
Everetts Medical (Holdings) Ltd.	Chiropodial plasters, felts and paddings	10.30	1.00
G. Folwell and Sons Ltd.	Manufactured meat products	3.44	0.10
Greenall Whitley and Co. Ltd.	Managed house tariffs	2.65	0.14
Greengate Industrial Polymers Ltd.	Conveyor belting, hose, mouldings, etc.	9.92	0.32
Hago Products Ltd.	Finished products manufactured in wire, tube and plastics	4.83	0.81
Ideal Tubes and Conduits Ltd.	Steel tubing	13.50	3.86
Kay-Metzeler Ltd.	Polystyrene block, sheet and other articles	6.30	0.22
	Polystyrene packaging mouldings	4.60	0.21
Kent Meters Ltd.	Water meters	11.20	1.24
Lake and Elliot Jacks and Equipment Ltd.	Hydraulic and screw type jacks	9.00	0.43
Laporte Industries (Holdings) Ltd.	'Laponite' thixotropic agent	10.38	1.57
Lubrizol Ltd.	Chemical additives	6.37	0.14
MacBrayne Haulage Ltd.	Road haulage	5.00	2.60
NCR Ltd.	Servicing of business equipment	5.32	0.32
Phonogram Ltd.	Gramophone records and tape products	9.69	0.68
Pork Farms (SPD) Ltd.	Manufactured meat products	2.69	0.13
Benjamin Priest and Sons Ltd.	Entire range of bolts and nuts and carriage bolts	11.86	0.84
Ranco Controls Ltd.	Thermostatic control devices	17.00	0.50
Redland Bricks Ltd.	Bricks	5.23	0.71
James Robertson and Sons Preserve Manufacturers Ltd.	Christmas puddings	7.39	0.01
Westland Engineers Ltd.	Garage and industrial doors, chalkboards and sash window balances	5.03	0.16
Yate Foundry Ltd.	Iron castings	9.00	0.61
Yorkshire Chemicals Ltd.	Dyestuffs	10.01	0.01

The new National Giro guarantee card, going out to personal customers during this month and August. The new card, in blue and mauve, will guarantee on-the-spot payments up to £30 by Girocheque or transfer. It will also provide Girocheque cashing facilities at any of more than 21,000 post offices. For customers with the guarantee card Giro will be allowing limited overdrawing for short periods.

Datapost 'on demand' to Australia

The Post Office's international Datapost network is now available 'on demand' from 28 business centres in Britain to towns and cities throughout Australia.

Items posted through the new service in London Monday to Wednesday will generally be delivered in the main Australian cities and towns in 48 hours and from other areas of the UK a day later. Thursday and Friday postings will be delivered in Australia on Mondays.

Datapost, a special business service providing fast, highly-reliable delivery of important packages and documents already offers 'on demand' facilities to the USA, Brazil, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands and scheduled contractual services to these countries as well as France, Belgium and Japan.

The service with Australia, which will meet the needs of customers with urgent 'one off' consignments, will be available on payment of an annual £10 participation fee plus a charge per item of £12 for the first 0.5kg and £4.40 for each additional 0.5kg up to a maximum of 10kg.

It will be available from London, Brighton, Southampton, Reading, Bristol, Swindon, Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Birmingham, Leicester, Peterborough, Great Yarmouth, Norwich, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Belfast.

Contract Datapost services are already available to businesses sending regular consignments to Australia. Terms are subject to individual negotiation.

Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

The following changes have taken place in Parts 1, 4, and 5 of the 1976 edition of 'Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts' published in accordance with Sections 9, 16(4) and 17(3), respectively, of the above Act.

PART 1 HOLDERS OF PRINCIPALS' LICENCES

Name	Nationality or country of incorporation	Address
CHANGE OF NAME		
Fitzwalter Wright Ltd. to East Anglian Securities Ltd.	Great Britain	Noverre House, Theatre Street, Norwich 3 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BN
Jascot Securities Ltd. to Arbuthnot Securities Ltd.	Great Britain	21 Leven Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LH
London and European Finance and Investment Co. Ltd. to London and European Trust Ltd.	Great Britain	Ormond House, 63 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TY
Ebor Securities Ltd. to Save and Prosper Securities Ltd.	Great Britain	4 Great St. Helens, London EC3
Save and Prosper Securities Ltd. to Ebor Securities Ltd.	Great Britain	4 Great St. Helens, London EC3
CHANGE OF ADDRESS		
International Mexican Bank Ltd.	Great Britain	29 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7ES
Bank of Cyprus (London) Ltd.	Great Britain	27/31 Charlotte Street, London W1P 4BH

PART 4 EXEMPTED DEALERS including TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Name	Registered office, principal place of business or principal place of business in Great Britain
ADDITIONS	
Banca Nazionale del Lavoro	33/35 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QD

PART 5 AUTHORISED UNIT TRUST SCHEMES

Group and/or name and address of management company	Name of scheme	Name and address of trustee
CHANGES		
Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd. 30 St. Pauls Churchyard, London EC4M 8DA	Security First Unit Trust	National Westminster Bank Ltd., 15 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AP
AND REPLACE BY		
Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd., 30 St. Pauls Churchyard, London EC4M 8DA	Slater Walker Security First Trust	National Westminster Bank Ltd., 15 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AP
DELETE		
Allied Investors Trusts Ltd., 51 Bishopsgate, London EC2	British Industries Flexible Trust – Second Portfolio	Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX
AND REPLACE BY		
Allied Investors Trusts Ltd., 51 Bishopsgate, London EC2	Allied Hambro British Industries Fund	Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

AMALGAMATIONS
The Clyde High Income Fund has amalgamated with Clyde General Trust Fund and has been renamed M. & G. High Income Fund.

TERMINATION
The Clyde General Trust Fund will terminate pursuant to its amalgamation with The Clyde High Income Fund.

Correction

The entries under the sub-heading 'Change of Name' referring to Fitzwalter Wright Ltd. and Jascot Securities Ltd. appearing at this point in the issue for 11 June 1976 were incorrect and should be deleted. These entries are now included in 'Change of Name' under 'Part 1 Holders of Principals' Licences' in the table above.

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Monopolies Commission reports on barristers' services

The recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in their reports* on the supply by Her Majesty's Counsel alone of their services and by Senior Counsel alone of their services, have been accepted by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

In answer to a parliamentary question on 7 July from Kevin McNamara (Kingston-upon-Hull Central), John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'The reports are being published today. The commission's investigations were confined to agreements and practices relating to restrictions on the supply by Her Majesty's Counsel (QCs) alone of their services in England and Wales and by Senior Counsel alone of their services in Scotland. These restrictions are generally known as the "two-counsel" rule at the Bar. The differences between English and Scottish Law necessitated two separate references. However, the commission found that the effect of the rules of both Bars was broadly similar and, therefore, their recommendation is virtually the same in each report.

'The commission concluded that restrictions in England and Wales on the supply by QC's alone of their services – which were observed by the whole body of barristers – prevented QC's from competing with each other and with junior counsel by performing certain services on their own. For example a QC is not allowed to appear in a Court of Law without a junior or, with certain exceptions, to draft a document other than in conjunction with a junior; and where papers are delivered simultaneously to both a QC and a junior, the QC cannot advise except in consultation with the junior. The commission therefore concluded that a monopoly situation existed in England and Wales in that barristers' services were all supplied by persons who so conducted their affairs as to restrict competition.

'Similarly, the commission concluded that there were restrictions in Scotland – accepted by all advocates who were members of the Faculty of Advocates – which prevented Senior Counsel from competing with each other and with junior counsel by performing certain services on their own. For example a Senior Counsel cannot appear before a Civil Court without a junior, although he is entitled (but not obliged) to appear alone before a Criminal Court; also a Senior Counsel is not allowed to draw up or revise pleadings in any court unless junior counsel is instructed to act with him. The commission therefore concluded that a monopoly situation also existed in Scotland.

'The commission further concluded that the two-Counsel rule restrictions in England and Wales and in Scotland had a detrimental effect on the public interest in that on occasions they involved unnecessary expense to litigants and wasted juniors' time. They noted also that they could lead to delays in arranging court appearances, and represented a restriction of choice for clients.

'The commission recommended that all existing provisions which precluded QC's in England and Wales and Senior Counsel in Scotland from acting without a junior should be terminated. They considered that for the future the decision that a QC or Senior Counsel required a junior for any particular case should be a matter for discussion between client, solicitor and counsel.

'However, although they did not think it necessary to have any new rules on the subject, the commission nonetheless thought it desirable that there should be a general understanding in future that a QC or Senior Counsel should be able in any particular case to request the assistance of a junior at any stage in litigation to enable the QC or Senior Counsel to devote his time to the more difficult aspects of the case. Also they considered that it should be recognised that in the ordinary course of events interlocutory work in England and Wales (that is work on proceedings after a writ has been issued but before the actual court hearing) and pleadings in Scotland, should be handled by juniors though this should not prevent QC's or Senior Counsel undertaking this work if desirable, either alone or assisted by a junior.

'The commission concluded that the abolition of the present two-counsel rules would not significantly affect the training opportunities open to juniors. Nor would the two-tier system be undermined, or the "cab rank" rule (whereby counsel cannot refuse to act for a litigant no matter how unattractive he, or his case, may be) be likely to operate so as to compel QCs and Senior Counsel against their wishes either to act on their own, if they considered that a case required two counsel, or to take on cases appropriate for juniors.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend accepts the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that all existing provisions which preclude QC's in England and Wales and Senior Counsel in Scotland from acting without a junior should be terminated. She shares the commission's view that for the future the decision whether a QC or Senior Counsel requires a junior for any particular case should be a matter for discussion between client, solicitor and counsel.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend is therefore asking the Director General of Fair Trading to discuss with the relevant professional bodies the termination of the two-counsel rules in England and Wales and in Scotland, and also to discuss with them whether any new understandings or guidance might seem called for on any matters arising from the abolition of the rules.'

Notes

Separate references were made to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on 24 July 1974 under Sections 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973. The commission were asked to investigate and report whether there was a monopoly in the supply of (1) barristers' services in England and Wales and (2) advocates' services in Scotland, limiting their consideration to agreements and practices relating to restrictions on the supply by Her Majesty's Counsel (QCs) alone of their services in England and Wales and by Senior Counsel alone of their services in Scotland (the two-counsel rule).

The present practice in regard to the two-counsel rule is that in England and Wales a QC is not allowed to appear in a Court of Law without a junior or, with certain exceptions, to draft a document other than in conjunction with a junior; and where papers are delivered simultaneously to both a QC and a junior, the QC cannot advise except in consultation with the junior; in Scotland, a Senior Counsel cannot appear before a Civil Court without a junior, although he is entitled (but not obliged) to appear alone before a Criminal Court; also a Senior Counsel is not allowed to draw up or revise pleadings in any court unless junior counsel is instructed to act with him.

These two references were among a group of references in the field of legal services (the others concerned restrictions on advertising by solicitors in England and Wales and in Scotland, barristers in England and Wales and advocates in Scotland). All of them stemmed from the general report on the professions which the Monopolies and Mergers Commission made in 1970 (published as Command Paper 4463) and all of them were referred to the commission by the Director General of Fair Trading at the same time. Both of the two-counsel rule investigations were conducted simultaneously by the same group of commission members.

The reports were submitted to the Secretary of State on 27 November 1975.

* Barristers' Services. A report on the supply by Her Majesty's Counsel alone of their services. House of Commons Paper 512, HMSO, 75p. Advocate's Services. A report on the supply by Senior Counsel alone of their services. House of Commons Paper 513, HMSO, 85p

Clearance of merger proposal

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Reed International Ltd. and J. and J. Maybank Ltd.

Financial go-ahead for Selby coalmine

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, announced on 6 July that he has approved the National Coal Board's financial and economic assessment for the development of the pro-

posed Selby coalmine and has agreed that the project should go ahead.

Mr. Benn was answering a parliamentary question from Dennis Skinner (Bolsover), who asked the Secretary of State whether the Government had yet agreed that the National Coal Board could go ahead with the mine.

In a written reply, Mr. Benn said: 'Yes. The Government has completed its consideration and I am glad to tell the House that I have approved the NCB's financial and economic assessment for the development of the Selby mine, and have agreed that it should go ahead.

'The board has, of course, already received the necessary planning permission.'

Taxation of company cars

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced proposals in his Budget statement for changing the method of taxing the benefit derived from the private use of a company car by an employee earning £5,000 a year or more, or a director. These involved measuring the benefit on a scale varying according to the type of car provided. Mr. Healey indicated that ministers would be consulting the motor industry on the industrial implications of the proposals.

Following these consultations, it has been decided to make substantial changes both in the width of the proposed scales and in the amounts of the taxable benefits. The revised scales and amounts are to be as follows:

	£
A. Cars costing up to £6,000 and having a cylinder capacity	
1300 cc or less	175
more than 1300 cc, but not more than 1800 cc	225
more than 1800 cc	350
B. Cars costing up to £6,000 and not having a cylinder capacity	
less than £2,000	175
£2,000 or more but less than £3,000	225
£3,000 or more	350
C. Cars costing more than £6,000	
Over £6,000 but not over £10,000	500
Over £10,000	800

Cars which are more than four years old will be assessed at two-thirds of the above figures.

These scales will apply for 1977-78 and subsequent years; there will not now be a charge of one-half of the scale figures for 1977-78 as was originally proposed.

However, when an employer certifies that in any tax year his employee has driven 25,000 miles or more on business travel in a car provided for his use, he will be taxed for that year on one-half of the appropriate amount in the scale.

Amendments to the Finance Bill to bring these charges into effect will be put down at Report Stage.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
7 June 1976		
1,375,441	Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft	Metal coating of moulded plastic articles
1,392,295	Townson and Coxson (Midlands) Ltd.	Tubular valve housing having an outwardly-extending flange engageable by an inwardly-flanged, internally screw-threaded connecting ring
1,395,889	Howden Supertherm Ltd.	AC power control unit
1,423,201	Ibis Engineers Ltd.	Improvements in machines for washing garments
9 June 1976		
1,192,086	Ibis Engineers Ltd.	Improvements in sizing and finishing apparatus for sizing and finishing articles of clothing
1,276,890	Ibis Engineers Ltd.	Improvements in garment pressing machines
1,274,443	EMI Ltd.	Improvements relating to mooring devices
1,399,118	SA Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to automatic windscreen wiper controls
15 June 1976		
1,301,802	Fuveau SA	New pyrazole derivatives and their use in medicines
1,307,810	Fuveau SA	Pharmaceutical compositions
1,368,785	Gaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for forming laminates
1,377,060	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Apparatus for cutting or marking sheet material
993,228	TPT Ltd. and Sonoco Products Co.	Improvements in the manufacture of textile yarn bobbins or tubes
1,236,820	Bristowe Buckland Saxton	Improvements in beds for medical purposes
1,265,009	Ibis Engineers Ltd.	Improvements in textile pressing machines
1,347,904	IMI (TAMI) Institute for Research and Development	Improvements in or relating to the production of finely divided solid materials
1,361,148	Giorgic Bacchetti Righetti	Improvements in or relating to exhaust silencers for internal combustion engines
1,424,515	Agfa-Gevaert	Photographic antihalation coatings
18 June 1976		
952,094	Coal Industry (Patents Ltd.)	Mining machines
1,098,706	Coal Industry (Patents Ltd.)	Mining machines
1 148,527	Coal Industry (Patents Ltd.)	Apparatus for determining the hardness of rock
1,313,309	Coal Industry (Patents Ltd.)	Conveyor drives
1,358,857	Coal Industry (Patents Ltd.)	Governor
1,417,333	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Improvements in heat-insulating screens
1,417,342	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Hollow panels comprising spaced sheets of vitreous material
1,418,827	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for forming a layer of solder on a metallised surface of a sheet of glass, and a process of making a soldered glazing unit involving such solder-layer formation
1,420,150	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Electricially heated panel improvements
1,424,113	Glaverbel-Macaniver	Packaging device
1,241,598	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot	Improvements in synchromech devices for a gear box or the like
1,312,142	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot	Improvements in or relating to memory circuits
1,316,852	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in chill-casting devices
1,317,945	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in machines for electrochemically machining workpieces
1,419,249	The Post Office	Improvements in or relating to dielectric materials
1,420,458	The Post Office	Improvments in or relating to dielectric waveguides
1,170,715	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	A method of producing printed copy
1,197,481	Nippon Columbia Co. Ltd.	Colour video signal generating system
1,265,426	Veb Getriebewerk Wernigerode	Automatic re-adjusting device for frusto-conical pulleys of a frusto-conical pulley and belt transmission
1,344,015	Emile Henri Gabriel Percevaut	Improvements relating to the treatment of air
22 June 1976		
1,323,540	Hitachi Ltd.	Correcting lens used to form fluorescent screens of colour television
1,323,620	Hitachi Ltd.	Shadow masks for use in colour picture tubes
1,334,986	Hitachi Ltd.	Devices for protecting the terminal pins of electron tubes
1,341,860	Hitachi Ltd.	Fluorescent screens for use in cathode ray tubes
1,344,415	Hitachi Ltd.	Magnetrons
1,347,949	Hitachi Ltd.	Method and apparatus for manufacturing colour picture tubes
1,362,304	Hitachi Ltd.	Exposure devices utilised to manufacture colour picture tubes
1,370,082	Hitachi Ltd.	Exposure device for manufacturing colour picture tubes
1,374,456	Hitachi Ltd.	Post-deflection focusing type colour cathode ray tube
1,018,920	Radiant Pen Corp.,	Pen cartridge operating mechanism
1,018,298	Radiant Pen Corp.,	Multi-cartridge ball-point pen
1,022,784	Radiant Pen Corp.,	Display ball-point pen
1,350,645	Laboratoires Jacques Logeais	Improvements in or relating to phenylacetic acid derivatives, a method for their preparation and the applications thereof

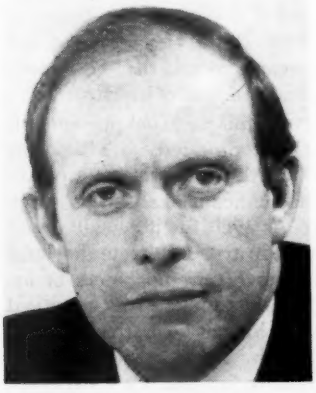
Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Britain

Industry must become more competitive and more attractive

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry



Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry

From the July meeting of the National Economic Development Council the message went out loud and clear that the CBI, the TUC and the Government are all committed to making a success of the industrial strategy. That means winning the best possible increases in output and employment from the upswing that has now firmly developed in the world economy; and at the same time pressing on with the job of strengthening British industry for the years ahead.

In promising the CBI's active support Lord Watkinson stressed that this is management's counterpart to the trade union movement's acceptance of the pay and tax deal for the twelve months ahead. It is the view of the NEDC as a whole that, difficult though many of our problems are and large though some of the readjustments will have to be, the counter-inflation policy and industrial strategy together mean we have the best chance for a great many years of making real progress.

When we launched the industrial strategy work last November the Government were under no illusions that to reverse the relative decline of British industry would require a really major and sustained effort. By that I emphatically do not mean that we saw the solution in one great act of policy. The fact is that the causes of our relative decline as an industrial nation are deep-seated and complex. We shall correct them only if we do at long last really put manufacturing industry first and work patiently to identify the opportunities

Eric Varley's statement to Parliament on industrial strategy

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, made the following statement to Parliament on 8 July:

'I should like to make a statement about the progress on industrial strategy, which was the subject of an all day meeting of the National Economic Development Council yesterday with my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister in the chair.

'The Government's approach to industrial strategy was outlined in the White Paper published after the meeting of NEDC at Chequers last November. Our prime aim is to put Britain on the path to a high wage, high output, full employment economy, by improving productive potential and the performance of manufacturing industry.

'The prospects and problems of over 30 sectors of manufacturing industry were selected for more detailed examination, on a tripartite basis. These sectors represent about 60 per cent of total manufacturing output. In the first phase of their work the Sector Working Parties were asked to concentrate in particular on constraints or bottlenecks which might limit their ability to exploit the opportunities provided by the economic upturn. The working parties were further asked to recommend appropriate action. They were also asked to develop strategies for improving the performance of the sectors in the longer term, though it was recognised that this would take some time to complete.

'The reports on the first stage of this work were considered by the NEDC yesterday. The Council welcomed these reports as a very valuable first stage in the strategy programme. Many of the individual sectoral reports will be made publicly available, although the decision to publish is a matter for each Working Party to take. Copies of a summary of the issues raised in the reports have been placed in the Library together with copies of the covering paper which my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I presented to NEDC.

'We want this work to lead to action. Many of the recommendations of the Working Parties are addressed to the Government, and we will be considering the action that we as a Government need to take. In some cases we have already been able to take the necessary steps. The NEB, planning agreements, the Manpower Services Commission, the schemes to encourage and accelerate investment and other instruments of our policy, will all play their full part.

'Many of the recommendations are for action by management and unions at the level of the sector, the enterprise and the factory. The TUC and CBI have both undertaken to play their part.

'The Working Parties themselves will also have an important role in their follow-up. The Government are setting in hand arrangements for monitoring and follow-up in collaboration with the CBI, TUC and the National Economic Development Office.

'At its next meeting the NED Council will go on to consider detailed proposals for the second stage of the work. The intention is for the Sector Working Parties to report again by the end of the year so that my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer can take account of their recommendations in the formation of his Budget strategy.

'It is essential for this country to develop an effective industrial strategy which will reverse the contraction of our industrial base and enable us to create wealth through industrial production. Only in this way can we achieve the social improvements to which we must aspire.

'Our tripartite approach to industrial strategy has made an encouraging start and we intend to build on this for the future.'

and weaknesses so that the right action can be found for specific situations.

The work must be done by people involved in industry. This is why we put it on a tripartite basis in the NEDC which consists of representatives of management and unions as well as of Government. It is why the NEDC in its turn arranged for nearly 40 special working parties, covering altogether about 60 per cent of our manufacturing capability, to report urgently on their sectors of industry.

Because of the world economic recovery that was developing these groups were asked to examine the scope for expanding output as demand picked up; and the constraints – whether of finance, physical capacity, components or skilled manpower – which were likely to emerge and how to deal with them. They were also asked to start to analyse what can be done to strengthen their sector of industry in the medium term.

Meanwhile the Government did not simply wait for the working parties to report. For example the Department of Industry pressed ahead with the Accelerated Projects Scheme which on results so far will help to generate investment totalling nearly £400 million over the next five years. Under the Ferrous Foundry, Machine Tools and Clothing industry schemes we have already offered grants towards project costs of £47 million. We are preparing new schemes for printing machinery, non-ferrous foundries, textile machinery and poultry-meat processing; other possibilities are being considered.

In the few months they had at their disposal in this first round of the strategy most of the sectoral groups concentrated on the short-term issues raised by the industrial recovery. They worked hard and enthusiastically, and the Government are grateful to the hundreds of people who took part.

Of more than 350 recommendations they make for action over half fall to us. We shall consider them carefully and we shall implement them wherever possible. In some instances for example investment incentives and help with stock building, we have taken the necessary steps already.

The other recommendations are for management, trade unions and the sectoral groups themselves. With the support the CBI and TUC are giving I hope they will also be followed up urgently.

One of the main benefits from the present round is the way customers and suppliers in British industry have been brought closer together so that potential constraints can be identified in time. This work can be important for supplies of steel, electronic motors and ferrous castings among other things. Provided we build on this start we can get a permanent improvement in customer-supplier relationships which will help to keep down imports as demand expands.

More fundamentally the key issue of the strategy in the longer term is the question of increasing competitiveness and our share of world markets – which, despite the better performance we put in last year was nearly 5 percentage points lower than in 1964. Unless we can increase the competitiveness of our manufacturing industry we are unlikely in the long term to reverse the decline in our share of world trade.

However we cannot concentrate solely on improving competitiveness. There has to be a conscious search for markets where we can get a larger share and competitiveness has to be seen primarily in terms of meeting the requirements of these markets. To the degree that we become more competitive overseas we will be more competitive in our own market – and becoming more competitive at home is the only lasting way of making sure that our imports do not rise excessively every time there is an upturn in demand.

As the West German experience has shown, competitiveness is not simply a matter of price, however important that is. We need to pay much more attention to improving marketing, design and production control, standardisation and product range, to becoming more reliable in quality and delivery, to providing better after-sales service and so on. Nearly all the recommendations in the reports here are for management and unions at company and plant level, for these are problems which must be tackled on the factory floor or in the customer's office.

The working party reports basically look at the question of improving our underlying competitiveness under three broad headings – increasing productivity, the use of technology and industrial restructuring. Of the three productivity seems to me to be basic. The evidence suggests that the reasons for our relatively poor industrial competitiveness overall – the main difference between our performance and that of our competitors – lie not so much with the quantity of capital and other resources available to British industry *as with the efficiency with which those resources have been used.*

For example, the study of the engineering industry by Professor Dudley shows, that if industry effectively used all the resources presently at its disposal it could yield increases in production of up to 100 per cent. If we can improve our productivity to anything like this extent, then in the long run we should not have any problems about the *level* of investment.

However the industrial strategy is unlikely to get properly off the ground if the efforts to increase productivity ultimately founder on shopfloor suspicion that the real price of any improvement in our industrial performance is likely to be much slower recovery in employment, or even further widespread redundancies in manufacturing industry. I fully understand this point of view; and in the present circumstances of intolerably high unemployment, I want to take every practical step to preserve jobs. But in the longer term this kind of defensive action will not be enough. The sort of rapid fall in unemployment that we are looking for, and the creation of more, well-paid industrial jobs in the immediate future, depends on getting the increases in productive efficiency that will lead to a sustained rise in the demand for British goods.

That means more new investment by industry quickly. It also means making the best possible use of the equipment and manpower resources that we have. It *is* true that this will require greater flexibility and mobility; more movement out of those industries with a falling pattern of demand and into those with the potential for profitable expansion.

All this can only be achieved through a programme of careful discussion and preparation with workpeople and their unions. To try to force through changes without the full co-operation of those most directly affected by them would be disastrously short-sighted and counter-productive.

Perhaps the most important factor in achieving a better use of manpower will be the effectiveness of arrangements for training and re-training. By far the most common worry amongst sectoral working parties concerned not any further running down of employment, but fears of a recurrence of the acute *shortages* of skilled manpower that have occurred during previous economic upturns.

The increased amount of public resources devoted to industrial training and other measures to improve labour mobility recently should bring benefits to industry. Even so the Government is prepared to consider whether further action is necessary – though we need to make quite sure that we are getting real value for money, and that both sides of industry are doing everything they can towards the success of the training programmes.

One requirement is for a greater and much more even year by year intake of apprentices particularly in areas like engineering. 'Training for Vital Skills' issued by the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission earlier this month outlines without commitment a possible way in which the number of apprenticeships might be increased through financial incentives to employers who meet targets for the number of apprentices trained in engineering and certain other trades.

However, by itself more training will not provide the whole answer to our shortage of craftsmen, if skilled workers leave industry faster than the newly trained come into it. The reduction of differentials between the skilled and unskilled has been reported by some working parties as resulting in a wastage of skilled manpower. This of course is an example of 'rough justice' in the voluntary pay policy that can only be adjusted as the policy develops.

There are other factors too. Steps can be taken to improve working conditions – identified as a key priority in foundries. Perhaps above all we must improve the status of industry compared with the public sector and the professions.

It is a particular concern of mine that our universities and polytechnics recently offered 30,000 places for engineering students for which there were no takers. There are signs of an improvement this year, but perhaps in the end the success of the industrial strategy will depend on making British industry more attractive and dynamic so that it can get all the able people that it will need.

At the August meeting of the NEDC we shall be considering detailed proposals for the next round of the industrial strategy. The intention is for the working parties to look at their industries in greater depth and to report again by the end of this year so that the Chancellor can take account of their recommendations when he is formulating his Budget strategy for 1977.

A great many of the recommendations we have now are for action by management and unions at the level of industrial sectors, firms and factories. This is where the battle for British industry will be won and where attention must focus from now on.

PROGRESS ON ACCELERATED PROJECTS

Accelerated projects

£55 million offered or approved to help 63 projects. These projects are expected to generate investment totalling nearly £400 million during the next five years. They should help the balance of payments by nearly £200 million in 1978 and by about £300 million in 1980.

Another 146 applications are being considered for help with projects costing £563 million.

Ferrous foundry, machine tool and clothing industry schemes

£10¼ million offered to help 83 projects costing in all £47 million. Another 217 applications being considered (or approved) towards projects costing £147 million.

Major issues raised by industrial strategy working parties

1 CHEMICALS

This main industrial area has been covered by four working parties – for organics, pharmaceuticals, plastics materials and synthetic rubber – sponsored by the Chemicals EDC.

The main issue is the need for a comprehensive petrochemical development policy embracing the fullest possible use within the UK of North Sea oil, gas, and feedstocks; and the association with this of downstream developments involving new capacity throughout a wide field of petrochemicals, including plastics and synthetic rubber. The objective should be the creation of new high value added industries designed to regain shares of the UK market lost to producers based elsewhere, and to create a new UK base for development of other markets particularly in the EEC.

To secure these objectives requires action by the Government to clarify North Sea development programmes and pricing policies, and also its overall energy policy; the encouragement of Research and Development by pharmaceuticals companies to secure a UK base for further development, the streamlining of planning procedure to facilitate large scale petrochemical developments, particularly of ethylene plants, early decisions on pipeline systems to provide appropriate feedstocks, and an appropriate fiscal and financial environment to encourage large scale new investment in a capital intensive sector.

2 IRON AND STEEL

This area has been covered by one working party. Its work has concentrated on the availability of steel for the upturn. A number of other working parties have expressed concern about possible shortfalls in domestic UK supply over a wide field, in the light of the serious supply difficulties which have occurred over the last 18 months to two years particularly in the bulk steel-making sector. Their main concern is that a failure to achieve a smooth implementation of the steel development programme in combination with industrial relations problems may continue to cause difficulties in this area. One result could be a return to double ordering with unnecessary recourse to foreign suppliers. The potential scope for growing UK steel exports would also be restricted. The Iron and Steel working part has identified a number of possible areas where constraints might affect steel supply in the upturn and made recommendations accordingly.

3 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND FOUNDRIES

This major area has been analysed by nearly 20 sector working parties including the whole range of foundries, machine tools, and a wide range of general engineering.

The major strategic issue is the development of higher performance, not only in terms of productivity, but also in levels of design, reliability and delivery. The development of new capacity to increase shares of the fastest growing export markets, particularly in Europe is also important. The reports make it clear that new initiatives need to be taken in a number of fields which, to be effective, may well need Government support.

In particular, working parties look for financial and other forms of support for the restructuring of a fragmented industrial base. Difficulties stemming from a structure were pointed to by some including difficulties of small firms achieving viable size. Support for new overseas marketing initiatives involving, eg collaborative ventures in a number of possible forms, was also sought. The need to modify the Price Code so as to achieve better overall financial returns to justify the new investment required is stressed by some working parties. They also consistently emphasise the need for more effective policies of labour training and retention and point to the need when circumstances allow to widen craft differentials; and less pre-emption by the public sector of resources both in terms of men and money for research and development, and of professional engineering and other staff.

4 TEXTILES

This field has been covered by four working parties with a contribution also by the Joint Textile Committee which has an interest over the whole textile field.

The main strategic issue is the considerable erosion of market position by imports from both high and low cost countries and the need to improve the industry's competitiveness.

The need to concentrate on exploitation of the important EEC market is recognised, as is the associated need to make further structural changes, effect more product rationalisation and improve design.

5 OTHER

The working parties for food and drink, paper and board, and rubber find that the major issue is the further penetration of home and export markets; which revolves around issues of performance and structure much as in the case of engineering industries generally. Paper and board have a special range of problems which derive from the intensive competition offered by the Scandinavians with the advantage they have in an integrated raw material and production industry which allows them to impose differential pricing policies to their advantage. The industry is seeking to escape this situation by using more waste paper. The rubber industry has problems particularly of capacity and product rationalisation in the tyre sector which are complicated by low cost imports.

Technology News

New technologies for deep-water development and marginal fields – R and D report

An Energy Paper*, published on Wednesday, 7 July, by the Department of Energy's Offshore Energy Technology Board (OETB) recommends that new technologies and platform designs to enable the development of deep-water oil and gas discoveries should be pursued as part of the Government's offshore research and development strategy.

The paper is the result of the board's first year's work. Its recommendations reported Dr. J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, in a written Parliamentary answer, on Wednesday, 7 July, have been accepted by the Government.

Known commercial initiatives

The paper sets out the OETB's guideline decisions on Government support for offshore R and D by industry. It says that the approach should be to complement 'known commercial initiatives in a highly selective fashion'. This would mean 'making technological and commercial judgements simultaneously'.

The intention is not to fund R and D to assist industry where there is no established credible firm in the UK to benefit from the results. The exception might be helping an established firm in the UK to expand into a different sphere of work thus creating new industrial capacity.

A major part of the effort would be to ensure that successful work is carried through to the development and manufacturing stage. Much of the programme would be placed in industry – perhaps in the form of joint projects – with industry sharing costs in many cases.

The paper points to a need to establish a UK capability to produce oil and gas from progressively deeper waters and to exploit small and marginal fields. The OETB has concluded that these are not really 'distinct adaptations of new technology but are interdependent' and that they should be considered in terms of the total package necessary to achieve production.

The paper adds: 'For example, these could consist of subsea well completions, a tethered buoyant platform and an associated tanker loading system'.

Reviewing R and D work associated with offshore safety, the paper states that whenever possible, in funding work for safety reasons, the UK should seek to ensure that the results are used to help develop a UK industrial capability in that area.

Deep water prospects

The paper says that to maintain self-sufficiency in oil throughout the 1990s, successful discovery and operation will be needed in deeper waters around the UK between 1985 and 1990. This will be in depths ranging from something under 1,000 ft to almost 6,000 ft.

Consequently, the board has decided in principle that a programme should be initiated to examine further some of the deep-water prospects around the UK. The areas under consideration are: North of 62°N, South Western Approaches, Faroes Trough and Rockall Trough and Plateau.

Areas recommended for support

The paper considers 12 specific areas as possible candidates for Government R and D support:

Tethered buoyant platforms: 'The board will support work to identify the safety implications of the use of TBPs and will be seeking to assist the establishment of a strong design and construction capability for TBPs in the UK.'

The paper adds that, with the prospect that costs of fixed steel and concrete production platforms will rise prohibitively in deeper waters, the idea of a floating platform held in position by an arrangement of cables anchored to the seabed offers an alternative. TBPs could also possibly be used in shallower waters.

However, important uncertainties about TBPs remain, including the riser system, cabling arrangements, anchoring and the method of installation.

Single point moorings: These present an alternative to offshore pipelines and the board is prepared to support further work on the safety implications and to assist in the establishment of an indigenous design and construction capability.

Positioning, mooring, and anchoring systems: The problem of developing anchoring systems to take vertical or near-vertical loads is an integral part of the TBP and SPM concepts and a programme of work is being drawn up.

Subsea completions and seabed production. The paper says: 'It is not possible to be sure at present in which direction this technology may develop but the department is examining the possibility of R and D support to help establish a capability in the UK in the field of subsea completions and associated technology.'

Marginal fields: The board recognises the need to develop low-cost systems for marginal fields at current depths. It says it will be considering the possibility of giving R and D support in this area, while acknowledging that a major incentive may be fiscal.

Pipelaying: The paper concludes that there is unlikely to be a UK pipelaying capability.

Diving: Work already in hand concerned mainly with the development of equipment to improve diver safety and particularly with the safety of electrical equipment used underwater. A study is in progress to try to identify the needs for further departmental support for R and D in the diving field in consultation with diving companies and the Ministry of Defence. The board will continue to support technological developments where possible to improve the safety of underwater operators on the Continental Shelf.

Underwater tools and power sources: 'In principle the board will be prepared to support R and D in these areas.'

Underwater maintenance and repair: The report says that underwater repair of offshore structures is likely to be necessary because of accidents, corrosion, and the cumulative effects of waves. The board has identified the present art of underwater welding as a problem area and has supported a programme of basic research at the Welding Institute at a cost of some £250,000. An examination is also underway into the need for further work on underwater cutting, explosive and other types of welding and on the underwater uses of adhesives.

Inspection, non-destructive testing and integrity monitoring: This is regarded by the board as a 'priority area'. A major R and D programme is being formulated covering: improved inspection and non-destructive testing methods to identify structural damage; integrity monitoring techniques for continuously monitoring the state of structures; and the development of unmanned submersibles for inspection work where it is too dangerous to use divers.

Submersibles: The board will support the development of submersibles for specific offshore oil and gas applications.

Deep drilling capacity: 'There is a strong case for supporting R and D in this area with the aim of helping to establish a UK deep-water drilling capability.'

* The Offshore Energy Technology Board: strategy for research and development. Energy Paper No. 8. Published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price 90p.

Parliament

Monday, 5 July

European consumer protection problems

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection expects to meet her European colleagues with ministerial responsibilities comparable with her own.

'I have recently had useful discussions with the French minister in charge of consumer protection, whom I invited to see our work in this field,' said Mrs. Williams. 'I hope in due course to meet my ministerial colleagues with similar responsibilities in other European countries.'

EEC directive on safety of cosmetics

Mrs. Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) asked if regulations would be introduced for the ingredient labelling of hair-dyes and for such warnings in regard to use as may be necessary in view of recent research revealing the use of carcinogenic chemicals in certain hair dyes.

Mr. Fraser replied: 'My department has played a full part in the preparation of an EEC Directive on the safety of cosmetic products. This was adopted on 29 June and will be implemented in this country as soon as possible. To accord with the directive, our regulations will require certain substances present in hair dyes to be named on the label together with a warning about any possible allergic reaction. The directive contains provisions for dealing quickly with products incorporating ingredients found to present a hazard.'

Consumer protection

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked: 'What further proposals are being considered to improve the protection of consumers?'

'A number of measures are proposed or are under consideration,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'A priority will be legislation to deal with exemption clauses, following reports from the Law Commissions. This will bring the rules relating to goods which are hired or exchanged into line with those for goods which are bought.

'The implementation of the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act is proceeding.

'The DGFT's review of the Trade Descriptions Act has now been received and my Rt. Hon. Friend is considering its recommendations. She issued a consultative document on estate agency in November 1975 and will consider the introduction of legislation in the light of the response to the proposals in that document.

'A consultative document has recently been issued on consumer safety. Comments on this are now being considered carefully.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend is also considering the report which she has received from the National Consumer Council recommending ways of strengthening consumer representation in the nationalised industries.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Food subsidies

Mr. Tim Sainsbury (Hove) asked: 'What pre-tax income is equivalent to the annual saving in expenditure as a result of food subsidies for a family with two children under 11 years, having a total income, unearned, of £10,000 per annum?'

'Assuming implementation of the conditional and unconditional proposals in the Budget the equivalent pre-tax income for 1976/77 would be £113,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Commodity speculation

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has any plans to control commodity speculation.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The Bank of England has the primary responsibility for supervision of the London commodity markets and since the present Government took office the arrangements for this supervision have been reviewed and improved.'

Package tours

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked for the number of representations received this year on alleged imperfections in package tours abroad.

Mr. Fraser said: 'A total of six complaints about package tours abroad have been received in my department this year. In each case the complainant was referred to his local trading standards authority so that they might investigate whether there had been an offence against the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. However, the majority of such complaints are likely to be directed not to my department but to other bodies such as local authorities, the Association of British Travel Agents, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Trade.'

Staff of DPCP

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked how many persons are now employed by the DPCP; and for the latest estimate of the annual cost of the department and public bodies, boards and committees appointed by it.

'My department, including the Metrication Board, currently employs 382 staff,' said Mr. Fraser. 'Estimated net costs in 1976/77 of running my department and the associated bodies to which my Rt. Hon. Friend makes appointments, total £13.9 million.'

Metric packs of sugar

Mrs. Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked about steps to protect consumers during the period when retail packs of sugar are being converted to metric amounts.

Mr. Fraser's reply was published in *Trade and Industry*, 9 July, page 66.

Public opinion on metrication

Mr. Philip Goodhart (Bromley, Beckenham) asked what further action is being taken to test public opinion on metrication.

Mr. Fraser said: 'The Metrication Board, on behalf of the Government, has commissioned regular surveys to ascertain people's attitude to metrication since 1972. My department has also regularly sought the views of consumer representatives and the great preponderance of opinion has been in favour of metrication with adequate consumer safeguards.'

Minimum quantities for sale of wine

Mr. David Watkins (Consett) asked when a range

of minimum quantities would be prescribed for the sale of wine.

'We have taken action to prescribe quantities for wine sold in carafes', said Mr. Maclennan. 'The position for bottle wine is more complex but we shall be introducing legislation to provide that most bottled table wines will have to bear an indication of contents and be put up in a range of prescribed sizes by 31 August 1977.'

Consumer Credit Act

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would reimburse local authorities the full cost of administering the Consumer Credit Act from the licence fees received by HM Government under the Act.

Mr. Fraser said: 'The local authorities are not responsible for administering the Act. It does however give them an enforcement role, but there is no power of reimbursement from licence fees.'

Retail price index

Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked about the effect on the Retail Price Index of the changes proposed in the Price Code.

'Our estimate, which cannot be absolutely precise, is about 1 per cent,' said Mrs. Williams.

Questions about the latest rises in the RPI were asked by Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire); Mr. Cyril D. Townsend (Bexley, Bexleyheath); Mr. Donald Stewart (Western Isles) and Mr. Jim Lester (Beeston).

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The monthly increase in the Retail Price Index to May 1976 was 1.1 per cent, and this brought the overall 12 month figure down to 15.4 per cent. Since February 1974, the Index has risen by 52.6 per cent.'

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked for the percentage increases in the RPI in the five-months period, January to May, inclusive, in each of the calendar years 1970 to 1976.

Mr. Maclennan said that in the five-month periods mid-December to mid-May the percentage increases in RPI were 3.8; 5.7; 2.8; 4.6; 9.7; 15.1 and in the latest period 6.3.

Mr. Tony Durant (Reading North) asked: 'What was the percentage increase in the RPI over the past six months exclusive of seasonal foods; and what was the increase in each of the previous six-monthly periods?'

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The increase between 11 November 1975 and 18 May 1976 in the RPI excluding seasonal foods was 6.7 per cent. Percentage increases for the periods November 1974 to May 1975, and May 1975 to November 1975 were 16.6 and 7.2 respectively.'

'What has been the rise in the cost of living between May 1973 and May 1976?' asked Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester).

Mr. Maclennan told him that between May 1973 and May 1976 the General Index of Retail Prices rose by 67.2 per cent. The overall increase was made up as follows:

	percentage increase
May 1973 to May 1974	16.0
May 1974 to May 1975	25.0
May 1975 to May 1976	15.4

The Price Code

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked by how much the profits of the corporate sector are expected to rise as a result of the changes proposed in the Price Code.

'The Government is retaining controls over prices and profits, as I stated to the House on 30 June,' said Mrs. Williams. 'Profit recovery depends on the pace of the upturn, and it is therefore impossible to make any accurate estimate. But in the market conditions expected the proposed Price Code changes on their own could make a difference of around and rather below £1 billion.'

Mr. Tim Rathbone (Lewes) and Mr. Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham) asked for information about price control and investment in the manufacturing industries.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The Price Code changes will allow firms an investment relief of 35 per cent on factories, warehouses, plant and equipment, commercial vehicles and shop buildings. The relief does not extend to property companies or to investment overseas, and Price Commission monitoring will ensure this. The amount of investment generated cannot be directly estimated but in the period December 1974 to February 1976, at a rate of 20 per cent investment relief due against Category I and II firms' investment years amounted to £380 million, benefiting planned investment expenditure of £1,955 million.'

Mr. John Wakeham (Maldon) asked: 'At what intervals, and for what periods, the flexibility introduced under paragraph 17(2) of the Draft Price Code will be operable; and whether firms will be able to change their arrangements, should their circumstances change?'

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend proposes that the option to treat manufacturing and service activities as a single activity should be available to companies at any time after the new Price Code comes into force. Where their circumstances change, firms would not be debarred from changing their accounting units for pricing purposes insofar as it is administratively feasible and provided that separate accounts can be produced for each unit in accordance with the Code's requirements.'

Mr. Wakeham asked: 'Whether paragraph 17 of the Draft Price Code will enable firms carrying on business from more than one outlet to elect so far as their circumstances warrant, to treat each outlet as a separate entity?'

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'For the purposes of allowable cost and gross percentage margin calculations, firms are permitted to use any sub-division, including separate outlets, for which separate accounts can be made available in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Price Code. There are further rules about the extent to which firms may split for profit control purposes in paragraph 67 of the Price Code.'

Mr. Wakeham asked for a list of the categorisation limits for Category II and Category III Sectors, as set out in paragraph 45 of Modifications to the Price Code (Command Paper No. 6540), taken at 1973 levels and adjusted for the increase in the RPI since that date.

Mr. Maclennan gave the information, based on the rise in the RPI between April 1973 when the categorisation limits were introduced and May 1976, as follows:

Lower limits for categorisation (£)

Sector	Present limits	Adjusted for RPI increase	Proposals in Cmnd. 6540
Category II			
Manufacturing	5,000,000	8,425,000	10,000,000
Construction	5,000,000	8,425,000	7,500,000
Commercial services	5,000,000	8,425,000	7,500,000
Professional services	500,000	842,500	750,000
Distributors	10,000,000	16,850,000	15,000,000
Category III			
Manufacturing	1,000,000	1,685,000	2,000,000
Construction	1,000,000	1,685,000	1,500,000
Commercial services	250,000	421,250	375,000
Professional services	100,000	168,500	150,000
Distributors	250,000	421,250	375,000

Export promotion

Mr. Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North West Norfolk) asked how the Department of Trade identifies potential markets for British exports.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'My department assists exporters to identify potential markets by disseminating a wide range of general and specific economic and commercial intelligence through the Export Intelligence Service, *Trade and Industry* and other means. Additional and specific indications are obtained through the Joint Commissions set up with a number of governments. In the particular case of Japan the Export Marketing Centre on occasion commissions professional market research to identify opportunities.'

Mr. Brocklebank-Fowler then asked how the department persuades new exporters to exploit opportunities overseas.

'The department encourages firms to export by the dissemination of information about opportunities overseas and about the importance to the UK of increased earnings of foreign currency,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Where a firm believes it may be in its commercial interest to export, the department assists by providing information, advice and support under BOTB export promotion schemes.'

Export year

Mr. Brocklebank-Fowler asked for a list of companies taking part in Export Year; what proportion of the cost of Export Year is being met from public funds; and what is the size of that contribution, and how many of the companies taking part in Export Year are new exporters.

Mr. Meacher said that by mid-day on 28 June 384 firms had notified their intention of running Export Years. 'Further notifications are being received daily,' he said. 'The list as it stood on 28 June is published with this answer.

'Export Year is focused on individual firms. It is not meant to be expensive either for them or for HM Government but the larger share will fall on participating firms. Almost the whole of the public sector staff employed are being found from within the existing complement of the British Overseas Trade Board Divisions. Non-staff expenditure will

be kept within existing budgets. Up to 28 June the British Overseas Trade Board had committed £28,846 in respect of such expenditure.

'As the concept of the Year is addressed to established exporters and newcomers alike we have not sought to distinguish the newcomers and the figure requested is therefore not available.'

A
Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society – Perth Scotland
Abbey Horn Works – Kendal Cumbria
Abbott Birks and Co. Ltd. – Andover Hants
Abbotsford Fabrics – Scotland
ABR Food Machinery Co. Ltd. – Milton Keynes
R. P. Adam Ltd. – Selkirk
AE Auto Parts Ltd. – Bradford
Aeronca International Ltd. – Cardiff
Aerostyle Ltd. – London NW10
Airfilco Ltd. – Berkshire
Airscrew Holden Ltd. – Weybridge Surrey
Airsprung Ltd. – Wiltshire
John Allan and Sons Ltd. – Glasgow
Allmey and Layfield Ltd. – Liverpool
Anglo Nordic Thermal Sales Ltd. – Surrey
Arcon Engineering Co. – Bolton
Ayling Industries Ltd. – Horsham Sussex
Ayrshire Flooring Co. Ltd. – Kilmarnock, Scotland

B
Baird and Tatlock (London) Ltd. – Romford Essex
Baldwin Fluid Power Ltd. – Dartford Kent
Balfour Beatty Ltd. – Croydon
Balfour Kilpatrick Ltd. – Surrey
Bang and Co. (Transport) Ltd. – Essex
Banner Textiles Ltd. – Cheshire
BAR Productions (Bromsgrove) Ltd. – Bromsgrove Worcs.
Barclay Pharmaceuticals – Leeds
Bardex (Plastics) Ltd. – Surrey
Barkway Electronics Ltd. – Royston Herts.
H. C. Barnes – Leeds
B. and P. Barrett – Wolverhampton
Bartoline Ltd. – North Humberside
Bray Construction Machinery Ltd. – Glos.
Beasley French and Co. Ltd. – Bristol
BTR Belting Ltd. – Lancashire
R. J. Bentley and Partners Ltd. – Lancs.
Berisfords Ltd. – Cheshire
Bevan Funnell Ltd. – Sussex
Bexford Ltd. – Essex
Bexley Glass Ltd. – Kent
Birkett Cutmaster Ltd. – West Yorks
Blatchpack Ltd. – Devon
BOC Ltd. – London W5
BOC Ltd. – Lancs.
APV Bowser Filtration Ltd. – Surrey
Bremworth Carpets – London W1
J. Brevitt Ltd. – Staffs.
Z. Brierley Ltd. – Gwynedd
Brinland Ltd. – Surrey
British American Optical Co. Ltd. – Slough Bucks.
British Industrial Plastics – Warley
British Insulated Callenders Cables Ltd. – London WC1
British Safety Council – London W6
Bronester Group Ltd. – London NW5
Brook Crompton Parkinson Motors Ltd. – Huddersfield
Brown Brothers (Overseas) Ltd. – London EC2
E. Brown (Leathers) Ltd. – London N3
R. G. Brown Pipelines Ltd. – Lancs.
Buck and Hickman Ltd. – Essex
Buckingham Carpets Co. Ltd. – Bucks.
Burgess Power Tools Ltd.
Butler Bros. (Walsall) Ltd. – Staffs.
Butterley Foundry – Derby

C
Calbiochem Ltd. – Hereford
Caldene Clothing Co. Ltd. – Yorkshire
Caledonian Business Consultants – Glasgow
Caley Grader and Trencher Co. – Leeds
Caroline Exports – London W9
Carpet Products Ltd. – Worcs.
S. Casket (Holdings) Ltd. – Manchester
Cera International Ltd. – Surrey
Chemical and Allied Products Industry Training Board – Middlesex
T. I. Chesterfield Ltd. – Derbyshire
Chilcotts Ltd. – Salop
Chloride Industrial Batteries Ltd. – Manchester
Cintron – Middx.
Clarke's Crank and Forge Co. Ltd. – Lincoln
Clayton Crane and Hoist Co. Ltd. – Merseyside
Computer Instrumentation Ltd. – Hampshire
Computer Union – London W6
Condor Group – Winchester Hants
Construction Design Consultants – Cheshire
Contact Lenses (Manufacturing) Ltd. – London SW5
MJP Continental (Machinery) Ltd. – Lancs.
Control Technology Ltd. – Sussex
F. Gardner-Corbett Ltd. – London EC1
Norman H. Cork Ltd. – London WC2
Martin Creasey and Co. – Suffolk
Cray Valley Products Ltd. – Kent
Crosshall Engineering Co. Ltd. – Liverpool
Cuprinol Ltd. – Somerset
Custom Synthetics – Herts

D
Daton Reclamation Ltd. – Stafford
Davies, Turner and Co. Ltd. – London SW8
Davis Wayne Co. Ltd. – Hampshire
Davol International Ltd. – Essex
Day-Impex Ltd. – Essex
D. B. Factors Ltd. – South Yorks
Dellagana and Denby – Liverpool
Demag Plastics Processing Machinery Ltd. – N. Ireland
Detexomat Machinery Ltd. – Bucks.
Dexion Overseas Ltd. – Middx.
Downlands Reproductions – Sussex
Duport Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. – Warley
Duncan Chisholm and Sons Ltd. – Inverness

E
Edbro Ltd. – Lancs.
K. A. Edwards – Surrey
Louis C. Edwards and Sons (Products Division) – Manchester
Eight Track Entertainments – Essex
Elastica Ltd. – Essex
Elcometer Instruments Ltd. – Manchester
Emeral Enterprises – Essex
Emery Air Freight – Middx.
EMI Electron Tube Division – Middx.
Emil Engineering Co. Ltd. – South Yorks
Enfield Rolling Mills Ltd. – Middx.
Ercol Furniture Ltd. – Bucks
Euro Power F and B Securities Ltd. – London NW7
Expandite Ltd. – London NW10
Expotus Ltd. – London WC1

F
Fairmile Engineering Ltd. – Dorset
Fairy Tuft Ltd. – Manchester
Fardell Ltd. – London NW6
Ferodo Ltd. – Stockport
Fintrac Ltd. – Solihull
Fisons Ltd. – London W1
Flangeklamp Ltd. – Shropshire
Fleetwind Caravan Sales Ltd. – Lancs.
Flymo Ltd. – Watford
Fogg and Young Engineering Ltd. – Kent
Foster Refrigerators UK Ltd. – Norfolk
French Interpreting – Translating Service – London SE12

G
Gainsborough Electrical Ltd. – Birmingham
Gascoigne Gush and Dent (Agricultural) Ltd. – Berks.
GKN Sankey – Salop
GKN Screws and Fasteners Ltd. – Warley
Global Offshore Ltd. – Perth
GM Technical Services Ltd. – Herts.
GMT Marine Manpower Ltd. – Liverpool
Goldfly Ltd. – Salop
Wm. Goodacre and Sons Ltd. – Cumbria
Graham Building Services Ltd. – Harrogate
Grampian Furniture Ltd. – London EC1
Granger Associates Ltd. – Surrey
Grant and West Ltd. – Surrey
Greengrove Welding Wires Ltd. – Warwickshire
Greenwood (Mfrs. and Dealers) Ltd. – Twickenham
'G' Tanners Ltd. – Selkirk
Gullick Dobson International Ltd. – Lancs.

H
Halifax Tool Co. Ltd. – West Yorks
Ham, Baker and Co. Ltd. – Warley
Harrison Mayer Ltd. – Staffs.
Hartle Machinery Export Ltd. – Tameside
John Harveys and Sons Ltd. – Bristol
Chris Hawkesworth – Harrogate
R. J. Hawkins and Co. (Export) Ltd. – Dudley
Heenan Drives Ltd. – Worcester
A. and S.. Henry and Co. (Paper Sacks) Ltd. – Liverpool
Henry V. Hird Ltd. – Cheshire
Henry Ives Assocs. Ltd. – Berks.
Higgins and Cattle Ltd. – Surrey
Holford Associates – Glasgow
Gerard Holdsworth Productions Ltd. – London SW1
Horobin Ltd. – Wolverhampton
Thomas Hosking and Sons Ltd. – Cardiff
Charles Hufton and Sons Ltd. – Birmingham
Hunt Bros. (Oldbury) Ltd. – Warley
Huntlry Boorne and Stevens Ltd. – Berkshire
Hydra-Com Ltd. – Huddersfield
Hygienic Engineering Industries Ltd. – Huddersfield
Hyland Crowe Ltd. – Birmingham

I
IFT Ltd. – London N19
Imperial Easterman (UK) Ltd. – Cambs.
Imperial Smelting Processes Ltd. – Bristol
James Ince – London EC2
Interlas Welding Products Ltd. – Herts.
Invicta Plastics Ltd. – Leicester
Involvement Packing Ltd. – Warwickshire
Itona Products Ltd. – Lancs.

K
Stuart Kay Ltd. – Manchester
Kayment Company – London SE15
G. H. C. Keen Ltd. – Buckinghamshire
Kellett Engineering Co. Ltd. – Leeds
Kentex (Textile and Chemicals) Ltd. – Stourbridge
Kenco Chemicals – Lancs.
Kendia (Diamond Products) Ltd. – Kent
Kennett and Lindsell Ltd. – Romford
Kerax Ltd. – Lancs.
Kingsley – Cornwall
Knowles: Miller: Associates – Newcaslte upon Tyne
Kolfor Power Ltd. – Dundee
K. Shoes Ltd. – Cumbria

L
R. G. Lassam (London) Ltd. – London SE1
Lay-e-zee Ltd. – Batley West Yorks
Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce – Leicester
L. Lenton and Co. Ltd. – Warwickshire
Lewis Electric Motors Ltd. – Berks.
Lindustries Ltd. – London SW3
George Lockhart and Co. Ltd. – Manchester
Loma Engineering Ltd. – Hants.
London Works Steel Co. Ltd. – Warley
Lucas Industries – Birmingham
Luton Knitting Co. Ltd. – Beds.
Lux Lux Ltd. – Derbyshire

M
Made in Europe Ltd. – Surrey
Craig MacMartin Cycles – Glasgow
Majlan Export and Technical Services Ltd. – Leicester
Marcol Ties – Shipley West Yorks.
Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. – Essex
SHG Marine Manufacturing Ltd. – Salop
Marinart Ltd. – Kent
Manda Export Ltd. – Beds.
Marine Projects (Plymouth) Ltd. – Plymouth
Market Development Overseas – London SW3
Marks and Spencers Ltd. – London W1
Marwin International Operations Ltd. – Leicester
B. and S. Massey Ltd. – Manchester
Max Factor and Co. Ltd. – Bournemouth
A. H. McIntosh and Co. Ltd. – Scotland
McMurdo Instrument Co. Ltd. – Hants.
Merryweather and Scns Ltd. – London SE10
Mersey Docks and Harbour Co. (Port of Liverpool) – Liverpool
METCO Ltd. – Surrey
Middle East Airlines Co. S. A. – Birmingham
Midland Industries Designers Ltd. – Nottingham
Mobel Militaire – Sussex
Monotype Corporation Ltd. – Redhill
Montfort (Knitting Mills) Ltd. – Leicester
W. and E. Moore (Anglia) Enginerring – Cambs.
T. Morrison (Wrexham) Ltd. – Clwyd
Way Moss and Co. Ltd. – Hants.
Mucon Engineering Co. Ltd. – Hants.
Multico Ltd. – Surrey
Owen Mumford Ltd. – Oxfordshire

N
NAS Agencies – Surrey
National Coal Board – London SW1
James Neil (Sheffield) Ltd. – Sheffield
Neil and Spencer Ltd. – Surrey
Newalls Insulation Co. Ltd. – Tyne and Wear
Newmans Tubes Ltd. – Wednesbury
L. H. Nichols Ltd. – Somerset
Nimbus Laboratories – Northampton
Non Woven Fabrics Ltd. – Berks.
North Sea Oilfield Engineering Services Ltd. – Great Yarmouth
Northampton Machinery Co. Ltd. – Northampton

O
Oldham and Newton (Sales) Ltd. – Lancs.
Oldham and Son Ltd. – Manchester
Optical Surfaces Ltd. – Surrey

P
F. Parramore and Sons (1924) Ltd. – Sheffield
Pearl Plants Ltd. – Mid Glamorgan
Percy Fogg Group – London SW17
Phillips Drill Company (UK) Ltd. – Glasgow
Phillips Murphy Associates Ltd. – London E4
Phoenix Straps Ltd. – Glamorgan
G. A. Platon Ltd. – Hants.
Plenty and Son Ltd. – Berks.
John Pollock and Co. – Manchester
Powel Automation Ltd. – Surrey
Power Components Ltd. – Surrey
Power Unit (Handle) Ltd. – Bradford
Power Units and Equipment Co. – Glos.
Powersport International Ltd. – Mid Glamorgan
Pressure Flex Ltd. – Birmingham
Primanor Ltd. – Bucks
Ptotector Safety Products (UK) Ltd. – Berks.
Grahame Puttick Ltd. – Kent

R
Rally-Klad Ltd. – Scotland
Rank Audio Visual – Middx.
Reckitts (Colours) Ltd. – Hull
Reckitt Industrial – Bucks.
Rectella International Ltd. – Lancs.
Redifon Flight Simulation Ltd. – Sussex
William F. Rees Ltd. – Surrey
Reichert-Jung UK – Slough
Remus and Gow – London EC1
Robey of Lincoln Ltd. – Lincoln
Rosita Purses Ltd. – Lancs.
Rotaprint Ltd. – Lpndon NW9
Royal Worcester Industrial Ceramics Ltd. – Glamorgan
Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd. – Wednesbury

S
Safe Production Systems Ltd. – West Midlands
Sanderson Engineering Group – Cleveland

SAS Group of Companies – London WC1
Satellite (Extrusions) Ltd. – Cambs.
Seamer Products Ltd. – Hull
Security Lock and Safe Co. Ltd. – London SE20
Sedan Products Ltd. – Hertfordshire
Semitron – Wiltshire
Serild Group Ltd. – London SW6
SESCO Group – Middx.
Sharpenset Engineering – Bucks.
Sheppard Hart Associates – Herts.
Sherman Denimwear Co. Ltd. – London W1
Showerings Ltd. – Somerset
Sidney Limburg – London N5
Siegel and Stockman Ltd. – London WC1
J. and S. Sieger Ltd. – Poole
Signpost Paints – Suffolk
Simplex Mechanical Handling Ltd. – Bedford
Singlehurst Hydraulics Ltd. – London E18
Sirdar Ltd. – Wakefield
Smith and Davis Ltd. – Wednesbury
Smiths Industries Ltd. – London NW2
Software Resale Ltd. – London W1
Sound Research Laboratories Ltd. – Suffolk
Space Time Fashion – Liverpool
Specialised Lab Equipment – Surrey
Spectra Automotive and Engineering Products Ltd. – Sussex
Brian G. Spencer Ltd. – Staffs.
Stafford Cases – Staffs.
Stainless Steel Wire Co. Ltd. – Sheffield
Stanhope-Seta Ltd. – Surrey
Stanton Redcroft – London SW17
H. Steiner Ltd. – Staffs.
H. Steiner (Timber Products) Ltd. – Staffs.
Stelmo Ltd. – Kent
Stewart Melrose (Bathgate) Ltd. – Scotland
Stonalva Air Conditioning Ltd. – Hampshire
Henry Stuart (Fabrics) Ltd. – Leicester
Sturtevant Welbeck Ltd. – Brighton
Submarine Products Ltd. – Northumberland
Sulzer Bros. (UK) Ltd. – Cheshire
Sunny London Ltd. – London SE11
W. J. T. Sutton Ltd. – Birmingham

T
TAC Construction Materials Ltd. – Manchester
Taylor Woodrow (Building Exports) Ltd. – London W1
TBA Industrial Products Ltd. – Lancs.
TBS (South Wales) Ltd. – Mid Glam.
Herbert Terry and Sons Ltd. – Worcestershire
Textured Jersey Ltd. – Middx
TGH Grange Maintenance Ltd. – Staffs.
Thames Packaging Equipment Co. – London E9
Thermovitrine Ltd. – Cheshire
Thistle Marketing Ltd. – Dundee
Thomas Haddon and Stokes Ltd. – Birmingham
Thorn Gas Appliances Ltd. – Birmingham
Thorpe Electronic Components Ltd. – Worcester
Thurston and Co. – Birmingham
Tillomed Labs – Beds.
Tiltman Langley Ltd. – Surrey
Timeguard Engineering Ltd. – Notts.
Titanium International Ltd. – Solihull
Titanium Metal Alloys Ltd. – London EC2
Transitex Export Services Ltd. – Lancs.
Triman Ltd. – Staffs.
Tucker Products Ltd. – Gwent
Turbo Tools – Humberside
Stuart Turner Ltd. – Oxon
Tutor Safety – Products Ltd. – Dorset
Twentieth Century Electronics Ltd. – Croydon

U
UCC Computer Instrumentation Ltd. – Hampshire
Unico Finance Ltd. – Bedford
Union Veneers Ltd. – London E10
United Biscuits Ltd. – Middx.
Universal Consumer Products Ltd. – London E18
Universal Crop Protection Ltd. – Berkshire
University of Strathclyde – Glasgow

V
VEB International Ltd. – Herts.
VERO Electronics Ltd. – Hants
Vickers Ltd. – London SW1
Vinyl Compositions (Holdings) Ltd. – Cheshire
Peter Vouer Ltd. – London W1

W
Wandsworth Elec Mfg Co. Ltd. – Surrey
Warner and Sons Ltd. – London W1
Waverley Weathercoats Ltd. – Lancs.
Webley and Scott Ltd. – Birmingham
Frank Welsh (Bookseller and Publisher) – Northants.
Western Trading Co. (London) Ltd. – Middx.
Westmyer and Co. Ltd. – West Yorks
Weston Hydraulics Ltd. – Birmingham
Whale Tankers – West Midlands – (Solihull)
Wheatley Davies Ltd. – West Bromwich
Whitbrik Engineering Co. Ltd. – Lancs.
Willis Toy Ltd. – Essex
Wilsons and Co. (Sharrow) – Sheffield
Wilson and Longbottom Ltd. – Barnsley
T. W. Wingent Ltd. – Cambridge
Wolf Tools Ltd. – Herefordshire
E. Wood Ltd. – Herts.
Woodhead Manufacturing Co. – Ossett West Yorks.
Woodrow Universal Ltd. – Bolton
Woods of Windsor Ltd. – Berks
Wycombe Marsh Paper Mills Ltd. – Bucks.
Wyvern Export Promotions Ltd. – Nottingham

ECGD

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) asked for the value, for each of the last five years, of: (a) the overseas work covered by the construction works policy of the ECGD, (b) the cover against the potential loss on foreign exchange due to overseas governments blocking or delaying sterling transfers and (c) the cover against cost escalation; what premium income, if any, was received for each of these risks; and what insurance pay-outs have been made.

Mr. Meacher said: '(a) The total business insured by ECGD under its constructional works policies for 1974/75 and the preceding three financial years is as follows. Final figures for 1975/76 are not yet available.

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
£m	44.989	55.997	42.913	18.732

'(b) Theoretically, losses could have occurred to these full amounts if overseas governments had blocked or delayed the payments due; but no such situation arose, and hence no pay-out was required from ECGD on such grounds. ECGD does not charge separate premia for insurance under its guarantees for each of the individual insured risks. Premium received by ECGD in respect of business insured under its constructional works policies in each of the last four financial years is as follows:

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
£m	0.466	0.276	0.606	0.715

'(c) None of the guarantees under ECGD's Cost Escalation Scheme has been in respect of overseas constructional works contracts.'

Mr. Latham asked: 'What is the value of the insurance cover being provided by ECGD to support performance bonds for overseas construction work; and whether any expenditure has so far had to be met by ECGD in meeting a bond, following the failure of a UK contractor?'

Mr. Meacher answered: 'Since the bond support scheme was introduced in February 1975, ECGD has provided facilities producing bonds to a total value of £49.5 million in connection with contracts worth £254.2 million. Of these, constructional works projects account for bond facilities to a value of £13.2 million in connection with contracts worth £64 million.

'No bond supported by ECGD has been called, either as a result of the failure of a UK contractor or for any other reason, and no expenditure has been incurred by ECGD in this respect.'

Overseas Projects Group

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) asked for a statement on the performance to date of the Overseas Projects Group in assisting the UK construction industry; how many contracts it has drawn to the notice of UK firms over the last 12 months; how many of them have subsequently been: (a) tendered for and (b) won; what has been the expenditure over the last 12 months of the Overseas Projects Fund; and what proportion of that expenditure has been reclaimed from successful tenderers.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'In the 12 months ended 30 June 1976, my department's Overseas Projects Group assisted construction exporters in various forms in pursuing 90 projects in which construction was a prominent feature. Most of these projects were of a long-term nature and only 12 have reached the stage of contract award; none of these was won by British firms. In the same 12 months, assistance totalling £230,000 was paid from the Overseas Projects Fund to British firms pursuing 10 of these projects. In two of these cases, British firms have not been successful, but eight cases have not yet reached the stage of contract award. No repayments have, therefore, been made so far.'

Irish Copyright regulations

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) referred to the fact that Trinity College, Dublin, is entitled under the Copyright Acts to a copy of each book published in the UK and asked if there is any reciprocal arrangement under Irish copyright regulations for Irish publishers to send, at publisher's expense, copies of books published, to any library in the UK.

'Yes,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Section 56 of the Irish Copyright Act 1963 provides for complete reciprocity in this matter.'

Spanish footwear

Mr. John Garrett (Norwich South) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would impose a duty of 10 per cent on imports of Spanish footwear on the grounds that Spain subsidises exports of footwear to the UK.

Mr. Meacher said: 'I am considering a request from the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation for the imposition, under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969, of a countervailing duty of 10 per cent on allegedly subsidised imports of footwear from Spain.'

Industrial development in West Midlands

Mr. George Park (Coventry North East) asked whether in the West Midlands office of the Department of Industry there is a team of civil servants whose objective is to encourage firms in the West Midlands to move to development areas.

Mr. Williams answered: 'All my department's regional offices have responsibility for administering our industrial and regional policies. In the West Midlands there is a group of officials whose duties include handling, in respect of projects to be carried out in the region, applications for financial assistance under our accelerated projects and industry schemes. They also deal with IDC applications for the region, applications for regional selective assistance for the Oswestry Intermediate Areas and inquiries about our schemes for encouraging industrial development in the assisted areas.'

(See 'West Midlands – the heart of England', pages 169 to 184.)

Nationalisation of aircraft and shipbuilding industries

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked: 'If the assurance given by the Lord President of the

Council on 29 June, that the restructuring of aircraft and shipbuilding following nationalisation will not lead to losses of jobs at the Hawker Siddeley works at Broughton or at Bristol Channel Shiprepairers, will lead either to any shortage of work at these establishments being made good by the re-allocation of contracts from other establishments or to manpower being maintained irrespective of the workload?'

Mr. Huckfield replied: 'The Lord President of the Council gave an assurance that job losses will not arise from "restructuring of these two industries resulting directly from the act of nationalisation". We have always said we cannot guarantee the long-term future level of employment at particular works or yards, which depends ultimately on the demand for their specialist skills and their competitiveness in world markets.'

Nationalisation of ship-repairing companies

Mr. J. Enoch Powell (South Down) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, whether, in anticipation of the nationalisation of ship-repairing companies, he has given, or caused to be given, to them any advice regarding the terms on which they might currently tender for work.

Mr. Huckfield answered: 'It is for the companies to decide on a normal commercial basis the terms on which they tender for work. In a statement in Parliament on 4 November 1974 the Secretary of State for Industry gave an assurance that in the period up to vesting day no company or person will be penalised as a result of reasonable action taken in the normal course of business and in good faith. Since publication of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill it has been made clear to companies that the safeguarding provisions of the Bill do not apply to normal commercial transactions entered into in good faith.'

Spraying crops from the air

Mr. Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw) asked what regulations are laid down with regard to the spraying of crops from the air; and what investigations and inspections are regularly made to see whether they are complied with.

Mr. Dell replied: 'Article 38(2)(f) of the Air Navigation Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1114) provides that articles may not be dropped for the purposes of agriculture, horticulture or forestry, from aircraft in flight without the prior permission of the Civil Aviation Authority. The inspection of the operator and his facilities is a matter for the authority, but I am informed that it is the practice to inspect operators while they are actually spraying at least once a year.

'Permissions granted under Article 38 in no way over-ride the requirements of Article 44 of the Air Navigation Order, which forbids anyone negligently or wilfully to cause or permit an aircraft to endanger persons or property.'

Aircraft noise

Mr. Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley) asked about progress with the scheme under consideration at Birmingham Airport for the payment of grants for the sound insulation of dwellings affected by aircraft noise.

Mr. Dell replied: 'As the proposed West Midlands County Council Bill, under which the Council intended obtaining powers to make these grants, has been stopped, further progress on this matter depends on the promotion of further local or public legislation.'

Mr. Tierney also asked about research by the Department of Trade in assessing aircraft noise annoyance, noise insulation of buildings, operational methods of noise control and the effects of aircraft noise on health.

Mr. Dell replied: 'There has been since the Wilson Committee report on noise in 1963, a considerable amount of research on the assessment and means of abatement of noise nuisance of all kinds, some of it partly relevant to the problems of aircraft noise and some of it confined to that subject. Much the biggest effort financially has been by the Government and the aircraft building industry on ways of quietening aircraft engines but the matters named in the Hon. Member's question have also been the subject of research and current outlay in such research is running at about £100,000 a year.

'On noise annoyance evaluation, there has been one large scale social survey around Heathrow, several lengthy reports on the methodology involved in compiling, and the weaknesses and strengths of, the NNI index, reports on the relation of such indexes to the incidence of complaints, as well as continuing research in the field in order to compile height profiles and create footprints of the noise made by all types of aircraft. There have also been reports on specific problems such as the interruption of teaching in schools.

'On noise insulation of buildings work has been and is being done by the Building Research Establishment financed mainly by the Department of the Environment although the results are available to the Department of Trade.

'On operational noise abatement there has been significant research on and there is still research in train on such matters as managed drag approach and two segment approach take-off techniques, and the use of minimum noise routes, some of this in co-operation with the Noise Advisory Council.

'On the affects of aircraft noise on health, a large scale project was initiated by my department in 1972 under the aegis of the Medical Research Council. The results of the first two years work now available to me are thought to justify a further three years work to try and secure an unambiguous answer to the problem of whether, and at what level, aircraft noise has effects on physical and mental health.'

North Sea oil and gas

Mr. David Lambie (Central Ayrshire) asked for figures for 1975 in respect of the British contribution to the provision of goods and services for exploitation of the North Sea oil and gas fields.

Dr. J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State, Department of Energy, said: 'The Department of Energy has today published a booklet entitled "Offshore 1975 – An analysis of orders placed", which describes and summarises the extent of the British contribution on the UK Continental Shelf. The main findings are that British industry has improved its share of the total orders placed from 40 per cent in 1974 to 52 per cent in 1975. In those areas where we have the capability our share over the same period has risen from 55 per cent to 66 per cent. Particularly encouraging is the increased share in the services sector from 29 per cent in 1974 to 41 per cent in 1975. Expenditure for the first time exceeded investment rising from £830 million in 1974 to £1,500 million in 1975. I have arranged for a copy of the publication to be placed in the Library.'

Telephones

Mr. David Knox (Leek) asked for a table showing the number of telephones per 100,000 of population in each year since 1960 in the UK; and comparable figures for each of the other EEC countries, Canada and the USA.

Mr. Huckfield gave the following Post Office figures, in so far as they are available (the figures for UK data are at 31 March, other countries at 31 December):

Year	Denmark	Belgium	France	West Germany
1960	18,200	8,490	5,000	5,870
1961	19,000	8,920	5,200	6,320
1962	19,800	9,420	5,400	6,830
1963	20,400	9,950	5,700	7,320
1964	21,100	10,490	5,900	7,840
1965	21,600	11,050	6,300	8,420
1966	22,100	11,690	6,600	9,160
1967	22,600	12,160	6,900	10,090
1968	23,100	12,730	7,400	11,170
1969	24,200	13,220	7,800	12,660
1970	25,300	13,860	8,400	14,420
1971	26,500	14,730	9,000	16,070
1972	28,100	15,660	9,800	17,520
1973	29,900	N/A	N/A	18,910
1974	31,600	N/A	N/A	20,150
1975	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1976	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Year	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands
1960	N/A	6,070	N/A	9,000
1961	N/A	6,590	N/A	9,600
1962	N/A	7,150	N/A	10,300
1963	N/A	7,620	N/A	10,900
1964	5,490	8,140	16,460	11,500
1965	5,790	8,700	17,880	12,200
1966	6,140	9,260	19,400	12,900
1967	6,660	9,860	20,090	13,700
1968	7,010	10,510	22,020	14,600
1969	7,490	11,230	23,080	15,400
1970	7,950	12,000	24,110	16,800
1971	8,350	12,900	25,360	18,300
1972	8,730	13,930	26,440	19,600
1973	9,300	15,300	27,840	20,900
1974	N/A	16,370	N/A	22,500
1975	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1976	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Year	UK	Canada	USA
1960	9,200	N/A	N/A
1961	9,600	N/A	N/A
1962	9,800	N/A	N/A
1963	10,100	N/A	N/A
1964	10,500	25,750	29,390
1965	11,200	26,530	29,990
1966	12,100	27,330	30,410
1967	12,700	28,080	31,320
1968	13,500	28,810	32,050
1969	14,300	29,600	32,920
1970	15,500	30,350	33,670
1971	16,600	31,360	34,190
1972	18,100	32,540	35,210
1973	19,700	33,740	36,730
1974	21,400	N/A	N/A
1975	22,806	N/A	N/A
1976	23,757	N/A	N/A

Bankruptcies

Mr. David Knox (Leek) asked for a table showing the number of bankruptcies and the number of company liquidations in the UK for each year since 1960.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the numbers of bankruptcies and company liquidations in the UK during the relevant years as follows:

Parliament continued

	Bankruptcies (1)	Company liquidations (2) Total	of which, members' voluntary liquidations
1960	3,130	4,547	2,912
1961	3,881	5,025	3,071
1962	4,469	5,258	2,952
1963	4,338	5,542	3,237
1964	3,711	5,519	3,299
1965	3,740	7,136	4,381
1966	4,019	12,139	8,703
1967	4,385	8,943	5,275
1968	4,302	9,923	6,548
1969	4,711	9,046	5,302
1970	5,079	8,844	4,939
1971	4,814	8,489	4,802
1972	4,394	8,267	5,022
1973	3,938	7,286	4,598
1974	5,744	7,928	4,038
1975	7,333	9,849	4,229

Notes:
(1) The figures are totals of receiving orders and administration orders in England and Wales, sequestration orders in Scotland, and adjudication orders, protection orders and administration orders in Northern Ireland, made in each year. These three sets of figures are broadly comparable.
(2) Company liquidations comprise compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations, in which the company is insolvent, and members' voluntary liquidations, in which the company is not insolvent. The figures are for liquidations begun during each year.

Tuesday, 6 July

Price Code

Mr. Neubert asked for estimates of the effect on both pre-tax and post-tax rates of return on capital, defined as gross company trading profits after depreciation and stock-appreciation, both at replacement cost, on net capital stock plus book value of stocks, of the increase in corporate profits which would follow from the proposed modifications to the Price Code and the estimated pre-tax and post-tax rates of return in 1976 and 1977, assuming present tax structures and rates.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'It is not the practice to publish forecasts of the rate of return on capital, since profits forecasts and estimates of capital values are subject to wide margins of error.'

Industrial development

Sir William Elliott (Newcastle upon Tyne North) asked how many applications were made in the past 12 months in the Northern Region for financial assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, and the number of such applications which were successful in obtaining aid.

Mr. Williams said: 'In the year ending 31 May 1976 221 applications for regional selective assistance were received for projects located in the Northern Region and 143 offers were made.'

Wednesday, 7 July

Textile imports

Mr. James Lamond (Oldham East) asked: 'What is the comparison between the rate at which licences have been issued, and goods imported into the UK so far in 1976, and the relevant annual quota for each category of textile products subject to import quotas under the provisions of bilateral agreements with Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Macao, Singapore, and Japan?'

'The cost of answering this question in the detail required would be disproportionate,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Details of quota levels are published in *Trade and Industry* and also in the *Official Journal*. Figures of actual imports, although not necessarily broken down in the same detail as the quotas, are published in the Overseas Trade Statistics. We are now preparing a full statement of licences issued against all quotas established by agreements made under the Gatt Multifibres Arrangement and I will let my Hon. Friend have copies as soon as it is available and place copies in the Library.'

Draughts of UK-registered vessels

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked: 'What is the maximum draught of UK registered vessels expected to use the Red Sea and Suez Canal in the 1970s?'

Mr. Clinton Davis told him that maximum draughts in the late 1970s are expected to be of the order of 90 ft in the Red Sea and 53 ft in the Suez Canal.

'How many visits to ports in the Persian Gulf were made by UK registered ships in 1974; and what was the maximum draught involved?' asked Mr. Hooley.

'The information is not available but the maximum permitted draught at the Kuwait terminal is 95 ft,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Mr. Hooley asked for the maximum draught of UK registered vessels expected to approach the ports of Milford Haven, Bristol, Humber, Firth of Forth and Sullom Voe in 1977; and the expected draught of vessels using these ports at the time the most recent surveys of their approaches were carried out.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that, according to local inquiries, maximum draughts in 1977 were expected to be of the following order (corresponding figures at the time of the most recent surveys are given in brackets):

Milford Haven	68 ft (36)
Bristol	43 ft (35)
Humber	52 ft (33)
Firth of Forth	65 ft (30)
Sullom Voe	23 ft (23)

Deep draught vessels are expected to use Sullom Voe in 1978. Surveys of the immediate approaches to Milford Haven and the Firth of Forth to full modern standards are hoped to be completed by next year.

'What is the approximate draught of the deepest laden vessels at present likely to transit the UK's Continental Shelf?' asked Mr. Hooley.

'Comprehensive information is not available but, based on the Bantry Bay terminal, a draught of approximately 92 ft is the maximum at present considered likely,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Mr. Hooley referred to the increasing numbers of gas and chemical carrying vessels entering service, and to the dangers of such vessels being grounded near UK waters, and asked if the Secretary of State for Trade is satisfied that adequate knowledge of the position and depths over all wrecks and other likely hazards (such as the pinnacles of rock found by HMS Fox off Holyhead in 1975) is available.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'In view of the number of wrecks and other marine hazards around our coasts, I cannot be wholly satisfied but the programme of surveys carried out by the Hydrographer of the Navy constantly enhances our knowledge of these matters.'

'What action,' asked Mr. Hooley 'is being taken to ensure that the charts required to be carried under the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Nautical Publications) Act 1975 are adequate for the use of United Kingdom registered vessels of significantly deeper draught than was envisaged at the time the surveys were carried out?'

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The purpose of the 1975 rules is to ensure that UK registered ships, of whatever draught, carry the best available charts appropriate to each part of their intended voyages world wide. Such charts may be published by the Hydrographer of the Navy or by any authority duly exercising similar functions in any other country. The Hydrographer of the Navy has a continuing task to perform in surveying UK waters in response to new developments in shipping characteristics; and in this regard there is close collaboration between the Ministry of Defence and my department.'

Hydrographic surveys

Mr. Frank Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Energy what hydrographic surveys were carried out for his department before the first deep draught concrete production platform to have been built in the UK was towed from the Clyde to the Frigg Field; what was the draught and value of this platform; who carried out the surveys and what hitherto unknown hazards were discovered during the surveys; and when the route had last been surveyed.

Dr. Dickson Mabon replied: 'HM surveying ships carried out a total of four surveys to assist the safe passage of the concrete gas treatment platform TP1 from the Clyde to the Frigg gas field. The route passed through three critical areas and had to pass outside the 200m depth contour to the west of the Hebrides and North of the Shetlands since the area closer inshore had not been surveyed. In the three critical areas the following hazards were found:

a Firth of Clyde to Ailsa Craig. Last surveyed by HM survey ships in the mid 1960s (using sonar still generally used by HM surveying ships) and by a French commercial company in 1975. The 1976 surveys by HMS *Hecla* and *Woodlark* showed a depth of 59m where 72m had previously been found by older methods: less water was found in a small area close to Ailsa Craig with a least depth of 40m not found in previous Naval or commercial surveys.
b North Channel. Last surveyed by HM survey ships in the mid 1960s and by a French commercial company in 1975. HMS *Hecla*, in 1976, confirmed shoal depths, widened the surveyed route in an area of difficult cross tidal stream and resolved previous inconsistencies.
c East Shetlands Basin. Never systematically surveyed until HM survey ships *Hecla*, *Herald* and *Fox* surveyed a route 5 miles wide and about 155 miles long from the 200m line north of the Shetlands to the Frigg gas field site. The bathymetry, whilst complicated, had no natural hazards for the platform but 13 wrecks or other obstructions were located and examined of which the most hazardous was the wreck of a World War I U-boat with a least depth of 90m over it.

'This platform had a minimum draught of 36.5m during tow out to the Frigg Field. Its value was in excess of £60 million.'

European aerospace policy

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked for a statement on the progress of negotiations with the EEC on the proposals for an EEC aerospace industry policy.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'The EEC Commission's proposals for a European aerospace and aviation policy have yet to be discussed by the Council of Ministers, but the council has referred the commission's report to the European Assembly for their opinion on its recommendations. In the meantime officials in Brussels have met to discuss the part of the report dealing with possible aircraft developments in order to define the various options.'

National Enterprise Board

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry, is satisfied with the way the NEB is discharging its employment responsibilities under the draft guidelines.

'The NEB has made a vigorous start and is fully aware of its responsibilities,' said Mr. Huckfield. 'Its subsidiaries already employ more than a quarter of a million people in the UK (not, incidentally, three-quarters of a million as I mentioned inadvertently in the House on 28 June).'

Selective financial assistance

Mr. Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool) asked: 'What are the present levels of delegated authority for the Department of Industry's regional offices in assisted areas for the purpose of selective financial assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972?'

Mr. Williams answered: 'At present my department's three principal offices in the assisted areas, the Northern, North West and Yorkshire and Humberside offices, may provide loans of up to £1 million in cases falling within the guidelines for assistance. As from today these offices will be able to decide cases up to £2 million. Corresponding increases in delegated financial limits on other forms of assistance such as service industry removal grants are also being made. The new arrangements mean that the main English assisted area offices will now be able to handle in the regions nearly all straightforward cases which will assist the creation of employment.'

Thursday, 8 July

Imports and exports of coal

Mr. E. Fernyhough (Jarrow) asked for information on the imports of coal in the EEC in 1975 excluding the UK; and the exports of coal from the UK to the EEC.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

	1975 Metric tonnes
Imports of coal[1] into the EEC excluding United Kingdom[2]	54,878,666
Exports of coal[1] from the United Kingdom to the EEC	2,021,524

[1] Coal – BTN 2701 Coal, briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal.
[2] Including intra-trade between the EEC(8) which is not yet separately distinguished for 1975.
Source: EEC countries – National Trade Publications.
United Kingdom – Overseas Trade Statistics.

Mr. Fernyhough also asked from which countries coal imports came and to which countries British coal was exported in 1975.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

	Thousand metric tons
Imports:	
Total	5,083
of which:	
Australia	2,635
USA	1,794
Canada	366
Poland	95
Irish Republic	46
Federal Republic of Germany	40
Other countries	107
Exports:	
Total	2,182
of which:	
France	735
Belgium and Luxembourg	420
Federal Republic of Germany	392
Netherlands	222
Irish Republic	179
Norway	120
Sweden	53
Other countries	61

Mr. Nigel Forman (Sutton, Carshalton) asked for figures on Great Britain's share of overall world trade and of world trade in manufactured goods.

Mr. Meacher gave the following tables:

United Kingdom Percentage Share

	World exports[1]	Main manufacturing countries[2,3] Exports of manufactures
1948	11.5	31.1
1949	..	28.9
1950	..	24.6
1951	8.7	21.7
1952	9.0	21.2
1953	8.7	20.7
1954	8.6	20.1
1955	8.6	19.9
1956	8.3	19.4
1957	8.4	18.4
1958	8.8	18.4
1959	8.3	18.0
1960	8.0	16.5
1961	7.9	16.5
1962	7.7	15.6
1963	7.9	15.3
1964	7.2	14.2
1965	7.1	13.8
1966	6.9	13.2
1967	6.7	12.2
1968	6.4	11.3
1969	6.4	11.2
1970	6.2	10.6
1971	6.4	10.9
1972	5.8	10.1
1973	5.3	9.4
1974	4.6	8.8
1975		9.3 p

.. not available.
[1] Including centrally planned economies.
[2] Main manufacturing countries – USA, Canada, Japan, Belgium/Luxembourg, France, German Federal Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. These countries accounted for 75 per cent of world exports (including centrally planned economies) of manufactures in 1973.
[3] The removal of certain classes of goods from the United States 'special category' list has given rise to discounting in the series between 1961 and 1962.
Source: World exports: United Nations Statistical Yearbook.
Exports of Manufactures: OECD 1954 to date. Earlier years United Nations Statistical Yearbook.

Whisky and wine

Mr. Donald Stewart (Western Isles) asked what was the value of Scotch whisky exported to France in 1975; and what was the value of French wines imported in the same year.

'Scotch whisky is not separately distinguished in the overseas trade statistics,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Scotch and Northern Ireland whisky exports to France were valued at £18.3 million fob in 1975 while imports of wine of fresh grapes, (Heading SITC(R) 112.12) from France were £37.8 million, cif.'

R & D in EEC and North America

Mr. Barney Heyhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked for a table showing for each present member of the EEC, Canada and the USA the percentage of gross national product devoted to research and development by industry in each year since 1960.

Leslie Huckfield gave the information relating to the UK shown in the table below. Comparable information is provided from the international surveys sponsored by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development for each present member of the EEC, Canada and the United States.

EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY INDUSTRY

Industry funds as a percentage of gross national product at market prices.

	Per cent
United Kingdom	
1961	1.0
1964	1.0
1966	1.1
1967	1.1
1969	1.1
1972	1.0
France	
1963	0.5
1967	0.7
1969	0.6
1971	0.6
1973	0.7
Germany	
1964	0.8
1967	1.0
1969	1.0
1971	1.1
1973	1.0
Italy	
1963	0.4
1967	0.4
1969	0.4
1971	0.5
Netherlands	
1964	1.0
1967	1.3
1969	1.2
1971	1.1
1973	1.0
Belgium	
1964	0.7
1967	0.6
1971	0.6
Ireland	
1963	0.1
1967	0.2
1969	0.2
1971	0.3
Denmark	
1967	0.3
1970	0.4
Canada	
1963	0.4
1967	0.5
1969	0.4
1971	0.4
1973	0.3
United States of America	
1963	1.0
1966	1.0
1969	1.0
1971	1.0
1973	1.0

Robb Caledon Shipyards

Mr. Peter Doig (Dundee West) asked what financial assistance has been given to the Robb Caledon Shipyards during the last 10 years to the nearest convenient date.

Mr. Huckfield replied: 'As far as Government assistance specific to shipbuilders is concerned, Robb Caledon Shipbuilders Ltd. received a grant of £10,000 under the Shipbuilding Industry Act 1967 for reimburse-

Parliament continued

ment of consultants' fees in connection with the merger with The Caledon Shipbuilding and Engineering Co. Ltd. and a grant of £104,000 towards the expenses of the merger, to help meet disruption costs and to provide workers amenities and welfare facilities. A loan of £400,000 was also made to them under the same Act to help meet the costs of reorganisation and for capital expenditure. These grants and loan were paid between 1968 and 1971. Shipbuilding construction grants totalling £1,036,000 have been paid to the company to date under the Industry Act 1972. Shipbuilders' relief – a rebate of taxes currently 2 per cent of the cost of a ship – has also been available. In addition their subsidiary Burntisland Engineers and Fabricators Ltd. received a loan of £450,000 under the Industry Act 1972. The company would have qualified too for the normal range of assistance available to industry generally including investment grants, regional employment premium and grants available under the Industry Act and Local Employment Acts.'

Washing machines and cars

Mr. B. Heyhoe asked for a table giving the ratio of population to ownership of cars, washing machines and telephones for each member state of the EEC, Canada and the USA for each year since 1960.

Mr. Huckfield gave the following available figures for cars and washing machines. For the figures for telephones he referred to the reply to the Member for Leek on 5 July (see page 153).

WASHING MACHINES PER 100 HOUSEHOLDS

	Denmark	Belgium/ Luxembourg	France	Western Germany
1960	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1961	N/A	52	28	29
1962	N/A	N/A	N/A	32
1963	N/A	N/A	32	36
1964	N/A	N/A	42	42
1965	N/A	N/A	41	42
1966	N/A	N/A	45	56
1967	N/A	N/A	47	56
1968	N/A	N/A	50	60
1969	N/A	N/A	52	61
1970	N/A	78	57	69
1971	N/A	N/A	60	N/A
1972	N/A	N/A	61	77
1973	64	76	62	81
1974	N/A	74	74	76
1975	56	63	66	86

	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands
1960	N/A	N/A	N/A
1961	N/A	N/A	N/A
1962	N/A	N/A	N/A
1963	N/A	8	69
1964	N/A	15	74
1965	N/A	N/A	74
1966	N/A	42	77
1967	N/A	N/A	79
1968	N/A	54	82
1969	N/A	59	85
1970	N/A	63	87
1971	N/A	64	90
1972	N/A	67	92
1973	N/A	75	87
1974	N/A	72	84
1975	52	82	88

	UKi	Canada	USA
1960	N/A	N/A	N/A
1961	40	N/A	95
1962	44	N/A	96
1963	46	N/A	82
1964	49	N/A	78
1965	54	N/A	80
1966	59	86	81
1967	61	85	88
1968	63	84	94
1969	64	83	95
1970	64	83	92
1971	66	N/A	92
1972	67	79	94
1973	68	77	98
1974	70	N/A	N/A
1975	72	77	N/A

CARS PER 100 POPULATION

	Denmark	Belgium	France	Western Germany
1960	9	8	11	9
1961	10	9	13	9
1962	12	10	15	12
1963	13	12	17	13
1964	14	12	16	15
1965	15	15	18	16
1966	17	16	19	17
1967	18	17	21	19
1968	20	19	22	19
1969	21	19	23	21
1970	22	21	24	24
1971	23	22	26	25
1972	24	24	27	27
1973	25	24	29	28
1974	25	26	29	28
1975	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands
1960	6	4	11	4
1961	7	5	13	5
1962	8	5	15	6
1963	8	6	16	7
1964	9	9	17	9
1965	10	11	19	10
1966	11	12	21	12
1967	11	14	22	13
1968	12	15	26	16
1969	12	17	25	18
1970	13	19	27	19
1971	14	21	29	21
1972	15	23	31	22
1973	16	25	34	24
1974	16	26	37	26
1975	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	UK	Canada	USA
1960	11	23	34
1961	12	23	33
1962	13	24	35
1963	14	26	38
1964	16	27	37
1965	17	27	38
1966	18	28	40
1967	19	30	41
1968	20	30	42
1969	21	32	45
1970	21	33	44
1971	22	33	44
1972	23	34	46
1973	24	36	48
1974	25	36	48
1975	N/A	N/A	N/A

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

27 and 28 July 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester, Oxon

Auctioneers: Midland Marts Ltd. (Dept. L), Market Square, Bicester, Oxon (tel. 08692 2093)

Stores lying at various depots including greatcoats, raincoats, blankets, footwear and other clothing and textiles; large quantities of chairs, tables, wardrobes and other furniture, vehicles and machine tools including Commer GP vehicles, Bedford fire tenders, Bedford pipe carriers, Austin Gipsys, saloons, vans, minibuses, trailer fire pumps, featherweight pumps, lathes, milling, drilling and planing machines, light alloy and polythene piping, tentage, tyres, MT spares, wristwatches, electrical and electronic spares, and many other miscellaneous items.

31 July 1976 Furniture

Location: RAF Lindholme, near Doncaster (on A614 Bawtry to Thorne Road)

Auctioneers: Bartle and Son (Dept. L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel. 0532-450898)

Solid oak and mahogany furniture from officers' and airmans' quarters mostly lotted as single pieces or in small quantities and include dining suites, three-piece suites, occasional, dining, card, side, etc., tables, dining, bedroom, fireside, and easy chairs, writing bureaux, bookcases, dressing tables, chests of drawers, beds and carpets.

4 and 5 August 1976 Vehicles, earthmoving and lifting equipment

Location: Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot RAOC, Ruddington, Nottingham

Auctioneers: Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept. L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham NG1 2GL (tel. 0602-54272)

Approximately 1,100 lots including 300 commercial vehicles including heavy duty trucks and tractors by AEC, Leyland and Scammell. Alvis airfield crash tender, GMC amphibious DUKWs. 85 trailers, refuellers, fire tenders, Bedford RL and TK trucks and tractor units. 500 saloons, limousines, estate cars, minibuses and light vans (including 250 Morris Mini and Minor 1000 saloons and Travellers. Daimler LWB limousine (LHD), Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow saloon (LHD). 200 Land Rovers. Caterpillar D4C angledozer, fork lift trucks, mobile cranes by Coles, Jones and Hyster. The majority of vehicles will be offered as single lots.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

UK

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ENCIRCLE TI 124 ON PAGE 213 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

European Community News

UK announces proposals for EEC labelling scheme

Proposals for a statutory labelling scheme devised by the EEC for some 800 dangerous chemicals were announced by the Health and Safety Commission on 6 July. All nine member states have agreed to implement the scheme – in Germany, France and Belgium it is already in partial operation. For the UK, the consultative period expires at the end of August this year.

The proposals are designed to implement within Great Britain an EEC directive on the packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (67/548/EEC as amended). An amendment to the annexes to the directive have been agreed by the EEC but not yet published. The proposals incorporate all the forthcoming changes which will substantially revise the danger category awarded to some chemicals and the 'risk to safety' phrases which each must carry.

The proposed labels, which would cover such dangerous chemicals as strychnine, sodium cyanide and benzene, include easily-understood pictorial warnings of the hazard presented by the chemicals. The proposed scheme would be a great advance in safety as it would for the first time make it a legal obligation for many of these dangerous chemicals to carry a warning of the danger they present.

The scheme is issued in the form of draft regulations* made jointly by the Secretary of State for Employment and, to take into account protection of home users, the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. The proposals have been sent for comment to the TUC and the CBI, consumer organisations and trade associations. When the consultative period ends the Health and Safety Commission will ask the Secretaries of State for Employment and Prices and Consumer Protection to introduce legislation by July 1977 which would require suppliers to attach warning labels to containers of all these chemicals.

The most dangerous chemicals are classified as either high explosive, highly flammable, toxic or corrosive. Others while still dangerous, present a lesser hazard and are classified as oxidising, flammable, irritant or harmful.

The main feature of the label is a danger symbol accompanied by a key word. Each symbol shows the likely dangers and will be printed in black on a bright orange/yellow background so that it stands out prominently. Each danger category has its own symbol: an exploding bomb for explosive substances; a flame over a circle for oxydising substances; a flame for highly flammable substances; a skull and cross bones for toxic substances; a picture of a hand and a piece of metal being dissolved for corrosive substances and a St. Andrew's Cross for harmful or irritant substances.

The label will also carry: one or more risk phrases spelling out in more detail the main dangers, eg 'causes severe burns' or 'reacts very violently with water'; one or more safety phrases may also be carried giving advice on sensible safety precaution, eg 'wear suitable gloves' or 'never add water to this product'; and the name of the chemical and the name of the supplier or manufacturer to help doctors or first aid staff in the event of an accident.

In addition to labelling, the draft regulations propose that packaging must be designed and constructed so as to prevent accidental spillage in the normal course of handling.

The Health and Safety Commission proposes that the responsibility for attaching the label should lie with suppliers. Manufacturers or importers will be required to attach labels before supplying directly to other manufacturers or before supplying wholesale or retail outlets. Wholesalers or retailers will still have an obligation to ensure that products are properly labelled before selling them to users; but in practice the Health and Safety Commission expects that they will leave on the manufacturers' label. Wholesalers or retailers who re-package will have to attach their own label. Minimum sizes are specified for the label but there will still be room for manufacturers to put brand names and other information elsewhere on the container.

Containers of some dangerous chemicals already have to be labelled for international and domestic transport and for storage. For these chemicals a composite label would be allowed so that a container need carry only one label.

Health and Safety inspectors (eg factory inspectors) will be responsible for enforcing the regulations to ensure that manufacturers, importers and wholesalers attach the proper label on containers of dangerous chemicals no matter to whom they are being supplied. They will also be on the look-out, when inspecting factories and other workplaces for containers of chemicals which have not been correctly labelled. Weights and measures inspectors will be responsible for enforcing the regulations as they apply to sales from shops.

The Health and Safety Commission pointed out that at first labels would only appear on containers of single chemicals and mixtures were not included. The EEC intended, however, to gradually extend the coverage to include products, for example paraquat, which contained only a proportion of one or more of these dangerous chemicals. The degree of danger involved in products which are mixtures depended on how much of a dangerous chemical was present – some chemicals were harmless in quite high concentrations, while others were extremely dangerous even in low concentrations.

The Health and Safety Commission also explained that working out the safe limits on all the products which contain dangerous chemicals was a mammoth undertaking and groups of products were being tackled one by one. Work was already at an advanced stage on pesticides, solvents, paints, varnishes, adhesives and printing inks.

Work had also started on a wide range of household products, such as disinfectants and cleaning agents, which could be dangerous in the home. And, over the next few years, these warning labels should appear on an increasingly wide range of products, both at home and at work, throughout the EEC.

* Available from the Inquiry Point, Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF.

Roy Jenkins to be commission president

Roy Jenkins currently Secretary of State for the Home Department is to be the next president of the European commission. The appointment, which takes effect from 1 January next year for a four-year term was approved by the nine EEC heads of government at this week's European council meeting (12-13 July).

Elimination of technical barriers – directive package adopted

A package of 18 directives on the elimination of technical barriers to trade in industrial products was adopted by the community's foreign ministers at their council meeting on 29-30 June. The directives are concerned with, motor vehicles, tractors, measuring instruments, interference caused by electrical equipment, pressure vessels, cosmetic products and a number of dangerous substances. With these 18 directives, the number of council directives on the elimination of technical barriers to trade in industrial products is increased by nearly one third to 80.

Motor vehicles

With the adoption of the eight lighting directives almost all the work of harmonisation in the field of motor vehicles will have been completed.

All that will remain will be a number of directives, forming an entire set, on ensuring the safety of driver and passengers (safety windows, seat belts and head rests).

Tractors

Attention should be drawn in this connection to a very positive point regarding the sound level of tractors, namely that all member states now set as their target a sound level considered internationally to be the maximum permissible (90dB (A) or 86dB (A), depending on the measuring methods used) and that the deadline for attainment of the target will be decided by the procedure of the commission's committee on adjustment to technical progress, acting by a qualified majority.

Measuring instruments

With the adoption of the four directives on clinical thermometers, electrical energy meters, alcohol tables and alcoholometers, a total of 20 council directives now cover the field of metrology at community level.

Interference (electrical equipment)

The two directives concern the suppression of radio interference produced by equipment such as electrical household appliances and fluorescent lighting. They are the first of a series of directives on all types of electrical appliances and machines which are subject to analogous national regulations. The harmonisation measures are total, ie existing national regulations are replaced by common European regulations.

Pressure vessels

The framework directive in question represents a first measure of harmonisation in this field, after years of effort and will form a foundation for work on a whole series of special directives currently under examination by the council or in preparation at the commission.

Cosmetic products

The directive provides for total harmonisation, ie the replacement of existing national regulations by community provisions. Its aim is to ensure that the health of users is protected and that they are better informed regarding the constituents and method of use of the product concerned.

It should be noted that, during the council discussions, the member states and the commission succeeded in establishing 'positive' lists, in particular of the types of colouring substance permitted and the conditions governing their use, side by side with the 'negative' lists of banned products.

Dangerous substances

The member states undertake with this directive to impose a total ban on monomer vinyl chloride as an aerosol propellant because of its danger to human health, and there is provision for a long-term ban by all the member states on the use of PCBs and PCTs (polychlorinated diphenyls and triphenyls).

EEC/Canada agreement signed in Ottawa

A framework agreement for commercial and economic co-operation between Canada and the European communities was signed in Ottawa on 6 July 1976.

For the Canadian government, the agreement was signed by Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs and, for the European communities, by the current council president Max Van der Stoel, Holland's Foreign Minister, and by commission vice-president Sir Christopher Soames.

After the signing, the signatories emphasised the importance they attached to the framework agreement in the development of a closer and more vigorous relationship between Canada and the European communities. The agreement reflected the wish of the contracting parties to add a new community dimension to the cordial and extensive relations which already existed between Canada and each of the member states of the European communities. It would provide a framework and focus for Canada/EEC economic co-operation which should lead to increased trade and investment opportunities between the two sides. The implementation of the agreement should in particular facilitate the expansion of industrial co-operation between Canada and Europe.

Among the principal objectives of economic co-operation identified in the agreement were the development of Canadian and European industries, the opening up of new sources of supply and markets, the creation of new employment opportunities, the reduction of regional disparities and the protection and improvement of the environment.

An article describing the agreement, which was initialled on 2 June, appeared in the 18 June issue of *Trade and Industry* (page 715).

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of 'Trade and Industry'. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

Parliament

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EEC heads of government meetings continue

French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (left) with German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at the end of their meeting in Hamburg on 6 July. These latest talks between EEC heads of government followed the meeting in Bonn on 30 June between Helmut Schmidt and Prime Minister James Callaghan. Mr. Callaghan said at the time, 'We propose that this kind of discussion should go on between ourselves and of course we constantly remember the interests of the smaller members of the community, and those visits will continue between us as well.'

New EC legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 1531/76 setting up a temporary system of aids to private storage of certain protein products (*Official Journal* L170, 29 June 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1577/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 1380/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts (*Official Journal* L172, 1 July 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1579/76 laying down special detailed rules of application for sugar under Regulation (EEC) 557/76 on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture (*Official Journal* L172, 1 July 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 1530/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 986/68 laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed-milk powder for use as feed (*Official Journal* L170, 29 June 1976).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 1504/76 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 885/68 as regards the general rules for advance fixing of export refunds for beef and veal (*Official Journal* L168, 28 June 1976).

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 1554/76 suspending application of the condition on prices governing the importation into the community of fresh lemons originating in the Mediterranean countries with which the community concludes agreements (*Official Journal* L172, 1 July 1976).

Processed fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 1534/76 fixing the difference in the prices of white sugar to be used for calculating the levy for products processed from fruit and vegetables (*Official Journal* L170, 29 June 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1547/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 459/76 establishing a system of minimum prices applicable to the importation of tomato concentrates originating in Greece (*Official Journal* L171, 30 June 1976).

Cereals. Regulation (EEC) 1548/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 1493/71 on price increases and reductions applicable to intervention in cereals (*Official Journal* L171, 30 June 1976).

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 1553/76 extending the term of validity of Regulation (EEC) 1267/69 laying down special provisions applicable to imports into the community from Greece of goods coming under Regulation (EEC) 1059/69 (*Official Journal* L172, 1 July 1976).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 1573/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 700/73 laying down certain detailed rules for the application of the quota system for sugar (*Official Journal* L172, 1 July 1976).

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L172, 1 July 1976, contains the text of the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 1491/76, laying down, for the 1976/77 sugar marketing year, measures to facilitate the disposal of sugar produced in the French overseas departments (published in *Official Journal* L167, 26 June 1976):

Page 17:

the following Article should be added:

'*Article* 3'

This regulation shall enter into force on 1 July 1976.'

Commercial policy

Imports. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L172, 1 July 1976, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1552/76 maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into Italy of malleable cast-iron tube and pipe fittings originating in Taiwan are subject to import authorisations.

EEC/Maghreb agreements

Trade and Industry, 2 July 1976 (page 24) contains details of the provisions of the EEC agreements with Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria which came into force on 1 July 1976. The texts of these agreements have been published in the *Official Journal*, L141, 28 May 1976, copies of which may be obtained from HMSO, price £3.27 plus postage.

EEC/Pakistan agreement

Trade and Industry, 11 June 1976 (page 651) contained details of a five-year commercial co-operation agreement between the EEC and Pakistan. The *Official Journal* L168, 28 June 1976 contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1503/76 concluding the commercial co-operation agreement between the European economic community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the text of the commercial co-operation agreement between the European economic community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which came into force on 1 July 1976. Copies of the *Official Journal* may be obtained from HMSO, price 35p plus postage.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

EEC tariff quotas – high carbon ferro-chrome and magnesium

The notice in *Trade and Industry* of 16 January 1976 (pages 156-58) listing tariff quotas opened for 1976 said that tariff quotas for high carbon ferro-chrome and/or for charge chrome were under consideration. A community duty-free tariff quota has now been agreed for the period from 14 July to 31 December 1977 for 52,000 tonnes, with an initial UK share of 14,530 tonnes and a community reserve of 5,000 tonnes, for ferro-chrome containing not less than 4 per cent by weight of carbon under tariff heading no. 73.02 E.I.

The quota, opened on 14 July, is provided for in council (EEC) Regulation 1629/76 (published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L181, of 7 July 1976). Qualifying imports will be debited against the UK share of the tariff quota in the order in which any importer enters them for home use on and after 14 July 1976 and claims relief from duty.

Under the EEC regulation member states are authorised to give relief from duty within a limit of 20 per cent of their quota shares to imports of ferro-chrome containing between 3 and 4 per cent by weight of carbon. As the UK quota share is not expected to be adequate to cover all imports of ferro-chrome of 4 per cent carbon content up to the end of the year, and as ferro-chrome users have not so far applied for quota relief for ferro-chrome between 3 and 4 per cent carbon content, it is not intended to make use of this authorisation. Any user who considers that he requires to import ferro-chrome with a carbon content of between 3 and 4 per cent from countries outside the EEC should inform General Division 2 of the Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, by 31 July, giving his requirements in tonnes for the remainder of 1976 and stating expected country or countries of origin and how much, if any, such ferro-chrome he expects to import from other member states of the community.

It is likely that there will be a review of the community's needs for importing high carbon ferro-chrome and of the quota level in the autumn.

Unwrought magnesium quota

A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 6 February 1976 (page 402) gave details of the UK shares

of a duty-free EEC tariff quota for three grades of unwrought magnesium provided for by council (EEC) Regulation No. 126/76 (published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L14, 23 January 1976). It has now been agreed that this tariff quota should be increased. (Council (EEC) Regulation 1630/76 published in the *Official Journal* L181, 7 July 1976.) For two grades – unwrought magnesium containing 99.95 per cent or more by weight of magnesium intended for the nuclear industry and unwrought magnesium containing less than 99.8 per cent by weight of magnesium – the increases, of 350 and 2,900 tonnes, respectively, will go into the community reserve on which the UK may draw depending on how quickly the UK shares of the original quotas, which are as yet unexhausted, are used up. The increase, totalling 600 tonnes, for the third grade, unwrought magnesium containing not less than 99.8 per cent but less than 99.95 per cent by weight of pure magnesium, is partly allocated among the member states. There is a community reserve of 60 tonnes on which the UK may be able to draw depending on how quickly this country's initial additional share, of 63.3 tonnes, is used up. Qualifying imports will be debited against the UK's share of the additional quota for this grade in the order in which any importer enters them for home use on and after 14 July 1976 and claims relief from duty. It is expected that there will be a further review of the need for additional adjustments to the quota in the autumn.

Inquiries about this notice should be made to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. Inquiries about how much a quota has been used should be made to the Tariff Quota Registration Unit, HM Customs and Excise, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

Copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* may be obtained from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1, tel. 01-928 6977, ext. 365.

Temporary suspension of CCT

In the 25 June issue of *Trade and Industry* the Department of Trade gave notice of applications which had been made to the EEC commission by the member states of the community for new suspensions of the common customs tariff.

It should be noted that in respect of bitter or Seville oranges, fresh or dried (tariff heading 08.02 AII) the application is for a temporary reduction in the common customs tariff rate of duty to 8 per cent and not a total suspension of duty as had been indicated.

Stronger radiation protection standards

The council of ministers has approved a directive revising the basic standards for the health protection of workers and the general public from the dangers caused by ionising radiations. The council's decision is on the basis of a proposal from the commission.

Under the Euratom Treaty the commission is responsible for working out radiation protection standards. The member states are then obliged to adapt their legislation to conform with the directive and thus ensure that workers and the general public are not exposed to irradiation exceeding the maximum levels laid down in the directive.

The basic standards were first laid down in February 1959, within one year of the entry into force of the Euratom Treaty, in co-operation with experts from the member states and after consultation with the economic and social committee and the European parliament. These standards embodied a whole collection of principles and rules inspired essentially by scientific recommendations of the international commission on radiological protection.

The scope of the directive extends in principle to all the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and so to the production, processing, handling, storage, transport, disposal, etc. of natural and radioactive substances. Member states must make the reporting of such activities compulsory and in some cases subject to prior authorisation. For example, authorisation is always required for the use of radioactive substances for medical purposes and for the addition of radioactive substances in the manufacture of foodstuffs, drugs, cosmetics and products for household use.

The directive also lays down the maximum permissible irradiation doses for various categories of workers and the general public taking into account age and occupation. Detailed procedures for monitoring of exposure to radiation levels are also laid down.

Although the basic standards in force since 1959 have ensured excellent protection, their updating and adaptation was necessary for several reasons:

Firstly, because the new scientific knowledge acquired by the international commission on radiological protection has led to some amendments to the guiding principles in radiological protection; secondly, as a result of the experience which member states have gained through practical application of the basic standards; and also because of the availability of information as a result of the studies and research conducted by the EEC commission as part of its programme of research in biology-health protection.

The revised directive keeps to the basic principles laid down in 1959 and so does not alter the *quality* of the radiological protection already provided but it introduces new methods which should result in improved medical surveillance of workers in nuclear installations and control of background radioactivity.

Likewise the scope of the standards has been extended and more precisely defined.

Thus, for the first time, the new directive provides for the limitation of doses for students and apprentices. It requires that radiation from every source to which the general public is exposed – in particular radiation to which patients are subjected in the course of medical examination and treatment and that due to objects in every day use which contain radioactive materials – should be as low as is achievable.

Member states have two years to implement the revised directive.

EEC/Iceland free trade agreement

Iceland, together with other member states of Efta, concluded a free trade agreement with the European Economic Community in 1972 when the United Kingdom and Denmark negotiated their membership of the communities.

The Icelandic agreement (described in detail in *Trade and Industry* of 10 August 1972) was similar to those concluded by other member states of Efta, but contained a special protocol – Protocol No. 6 – under which the community agreed to give tariff concessions on a range of fish and fish products to Iceland, which were not given to other member states of Efta. The protocol, however, provided for the concessions to be withheld until a satisfactory solution to the problem of fishing rights had been found.

The protocol remained suspended until agreement was reached between Iceland and the United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany on fishing arrangements in the 200-mile zone around Iceland. On 23 June the community issued a Regulation (EEC) 1440/76 implementing Protocol 6 as from 1 July 1976. The customs duties applicable to Icelandic exports to EEC will be those which would have applied from 1 January 1976 had the protocol been implemented in 1973.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5544/3713.

Catalogues of Government Publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of Government Publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

EEC - your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Department of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government departments.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

ECSC loans and grants

Q. I understand that loans and grants are available from the ECSC to the coal and steel industries. Could you give me details?

A. There are three principal loan facilities available to the coal and steel industries. These are administered by the commission under the terms of the Treaty of Paris:

1 under Article 54(1) of the treaty the commission makes loans towards investment programmes concerned directly with coal or steel production

2 under Article 54(2) the commission makes loans to works and installations contributing directly to an increase in production, a reduction of production costs or to improved marketing of coal and steel products

3 under Article 56 the commission can help workers made redundant in the coal and steel industries (see following question)

The rates of interest and currencies of the loans depend on the rates and currencies available to the commission which raises finance on international money markets. The rate of interest has recently varied between 8 and 10 per cent. The terms of ECSC loans, which are made on a secured basis, vary between five and 20 years.

Applications should be made directly to the Commission of the European communities, General Directorate for Credit and Investments, Place de la Gare, Luxembourg. They should include full details about the nature and cost of the project, the financial situation and recent financial history of the applicant, the financing plan for the project and the security offered. As loans under Article 54(2) require the unanimous approval of the council of ministers, it would be helpful for the Government to be advised of such applications by a copy to the Department of Industry when the application is made to the commission.

Research grants are available under the provisions of Article 55 of the Treaty of Paris. Financial aid may be granted to companies, research institutes or individuals who wish to carry out research of interest to the coal-mining or iron and steel industries. Requests for such assistance should be addressed to the President of the Commission of the European Communities, 200 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels. Applications should give full details including title, purpose of project, technical and economic value of the research to the community, duration of project, estimated total expenditure, funding, and the sum applied for as aid. Full details of this procedure and the terms and conditions of the grants are set out in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, vol. 17, no. C 139, available from HMSO, price 21p.

For further information on the above schemes contact the Department of Industry, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ, tel. 01-211 3841.

Construction work under way on one of two drifts (sloping tunnels), each 1¼ miles long and dipping at a gradient of one in five, as part of a £23 million project, which is partly financed by ECSC funds, to give Prince of Wales Colliery, National Coal Board North Yorkshire Area, access to untapped coal seams about 400 yds underground. (Photo: National Coal Board.)

Help for redundant coal and steel workers

Q. Can redundant workers in the coal and steel industries get help from the ECSC?

A. Under Article 56 of the Treaty of Paris the commission may make loans towards programmes or projects, in any industry, which create new economically sound activities able to reabsorb workers made redundant, or about to be made redundant, as a result of modernisation or changed market conditions in the coal and steel industries.

The commission may also provide grants to assist the resettlement of individual redundant workers.

The terms of these loans are similar to those for other ECSC loans (see above). However the commission may make part of reconversion loans under Article 56 available at a concessionary rate of interest 3 per cent below the existing rate for five years. The proportion of the loan which the commission makes at the concessionary rate relates to the proportion of employment generated by the project which is taken up by redundant workers in the coal or steel industries.

A loan of this kind worth £950,000 was made in June to National Gas Tubes Ltd., London, towards the construction of a new factory for welded steel tubes in the industrialised zone of Tafarnaubach, Ebbw Vale. Preference for the estimated 120 newly created jobs is to be given to former steel workers with the British Steel Corporation at Ebbw Vale.

Applications for these loans and requests for further information must be made initially through appropriate Government departments. Applications for projects in England should therefore be made to the Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 6255. Applications for projects in Scotland should be made to the Scottish Economic Planning Department, 314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF, tel. 041-248 2855, and for projects in Wales to the Welsh Office, Industry Department, Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YC, tel. 0222 62131.

Resettlement grants designed to benefit redundant workers in the coal and steel industries are provided under Article 56.2(b) of the Treaty of Paris, which allows the commission to pay tideover and resettlement allowances or contribute to the cost of vocational retraining for redundant workers. The member state concerned must contribute not less than half of the above aid. As far as the coal industry is concerned, readaptation aid takes the form of contributions to government and coal industry redundancy schemes which were established before we joined the community.

Further information on this scheme is available from the Department of Industry, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ, tel. 01-211 4442 (steel), or from the Department of Energy, at the same address, tel. 01-211 4960 (coal).

Grants from Feoga

Q. I believe that certain projects in the agricultural sector may be eligible for grants from the EEC's agricultural fund [Feoga]. Could you give me details of this scheme?

A. Major investment projects for improvements in the agricultural sector, in particular in processing and marketing, and for improvements in fisheries (boats and on-shore facilities) may qualify for grants of up to 25 per cent from the community's agricultural fund.

There is no restriction on the type of organisation submitting applications. Successful applicants in Britain have included farming co-operatives, commercial organisations, water authorities, local authorities and research institutions.

The basis for the aid is laid down in Regulation 17/64/EEC. Its aim is to help the farming and fishing industries to adapt to the aims of the common agricultural policy. Projects are eligible for assistance provided that they qualify for national aid, whether under national capital grants, development area grants, farm co-operative grants or grants from central government to local authorities. The grant must, however, be specific to the project concerned.

Applications for aid under this scheme, if approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are sent to the commission for a decision. The commission's final list of projects is subject to scrutiny by a standing committee on which all member governments are represented.

If you would like more details, or wish to discuss a specific project, you should get in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, GAP II Division, 49-53 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2NH, tel. 01-233 4380.

New directive on cosmetic labelling

Q. Where can I find details of the new EEC labelling and packaging requirements for cosmetic products?

A. These are contained in the cosmetics directive which was approved on 29 June 1976 (see page 159). The text will be published in the *Official Journal*. This directive will require that all cosmetic products marketed in the community should be marked with the name or style and address or registered office of the manufacturer or the person responsible for marketing the product. Such information may be abbreviated if the abbreviation makes it generally possible to identify the undertaking. Member states *may* require country of origin marking for goods manufactured outside the community. The net contents, the expiry date for products with a stability of less than three years and the batch number of manufacture or the reference for identifying the goods must also be shown.

The directive does not require cosmetic products to list all the ingredients in the formulation. This is rendered unnecessary as substances which are likely to present a hazard to health, (eg sensitisers) are included either in the list of prohibited substances (Annex II), or in annexes III and IV) listing those substances permitted to be used only in strictly limited concentrations and subject to appropriate warning labelling.

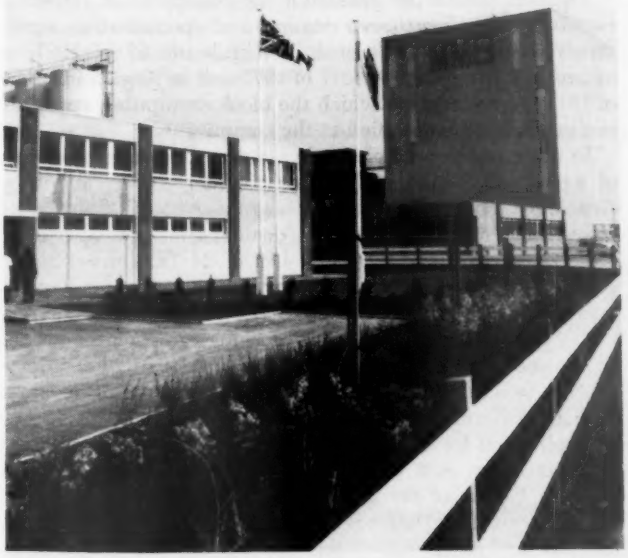
Some examples of particular precautions to be observed in use are:

1 For hairdressers only
2 Not to be used for babies
3 Can cause an allergic reaction. Contains resorcinol. Rinse hair well after application. Do not use to dye eyelashes or eyebrows. Rinse eyes immediately if product comes into contact with them

and there are others.

The directive also prohibits labelling which is false or misleading.

Legislation to implement the directive will now be prepared and must, in any case, be introduced within the period of 18 months following notification in the *Official Journal*. Member states may, nevertheless, for three years allow the marketing



One of the many projects receiving Feoga grants, the Milk Marketing Board's new multi-million pound creamery at Maelor in North Wales. This plant has the capacity for a daily throughput of 258,000 gallons, producing 30 tons of butter, 50 tons of cheese, 70 tons of skimmed milk powder and 30 tons of whey powder. (Photo : Milk Marketing Board.)

in their own territory of cosmetic products which do not conform to the requirements of the directive.

Further information may be obtained from J. Fowler, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Consumer Safety Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 3264.

EEC competition policy

Q. I have been told that an agreement, to which my company is party, may contravene the terms of Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome and that I should notify the agreement to the European commission with a view to seeking negative clearance or exemption. What does this mean?

A. Article 85 (1) of the Treaty of Rome prohibits all agreements or concerted practices which are likely to affect trade between member states, and which have as their object or result the prevention, restriction, or distortion of competition within the common market. This includes, in particular, price-fixing, market-sharing, restriction of production or technical developments, and the imposition of discriminatory terms of supply or other unreasonable conditions. The article applies not only to agreements between firms of member states but also to agreements between firms in the community and those in third countries, but restrictions which affect only the internal trade of a member state or trade with countries outside the community are generally excluded. Any agreement between enterprises which infringes this article is considered void.

Article 85 (3) does, however, allow for exemptions in the case of agreements and concerted practices which either improve production or distribution or promote technical or economic progress. If firms are in doubt as to whether the general prohibition under Article 85 (1) applies to their agreement, they may notify the terms of the agreement to the commission for the purpose of obtaining 'negative clearance', ie a declaration by the commission that, on the basis of the facts at its disposal, there are no grounds for it to intervene under Article 85. Alternatively, if Article 85 (1) is applicable, firms may notify the agreement for an exemption, if they consider that the agreement satisfies the conditions laid down in Article 85 (3).

The commission has granted block exemptions in respect of certain kinds of exclusive dealing and specialisation agreements; details are contained in Regulation 67 of 1967, as amended by Regulation 2591 of 1972 and in Regulation 2779 of 1972. Agreements to which the block exemptions apply are not required to be notified to the commission.

In addition the commission has given guidance on the types of agreement which it does not consider to be caught by Article 85. The categories of such agreements are listed in the commission notice on exclusive dealing contracts with commercial agents (*Official Journal* 139 of 24 December 1962); commission notice concerning agreements in the field of co-operation between enterprises (*Official Journal* C75 of 29 July 1968); and commission notice concerning agreements of minor importance (*Official Journal* C64 of 2 June 1970). For advice on how to obtain texts of the notices and regulations contact the EEC Information Unit, tel. 01-215 4301.

Application for exemption or negative clearance should be made on form A/B direct to the European commission in Brussels. Copies of the form and the explanatory notes may be obtained from all regional and district offices of the Department of Industry, the Scottish Economic Planning Department of the Scottish Office, the Industry Department of the Welsh Office, the Ministry of Commerce, Belfast, and the Commission of the European Communities, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

Publications on community matters

The following publications, issued during the period 3 May, 30 June 1976 can be ordered from HMSO, PO Box 569-London SE1 9NH (please quote the standard book number).

Parliament – command papers (1975-76 session)

Cmnd. no.	Publication	Standard book no.	Price	Price including postage
6449	European communities No. 9 (1976). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the trade agreement between the EEC and the Argentine Republic, Brussels, 19 December 1975. 2 pp.	(0 10 164490 6)	8p	14½p
6458	European communities No. 12 (1976). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EEC and the state of Israel suspending the implementation of the tariff reduction for imports into the community of tomato concentrates falling within sub-heading 20.02 ex C of the common customs tariff and originating in Israel. Brussels, 16 January 1976. 4 pp.	(0 10 164580 5)	12p	18½p
6464	European communities No. 11 (1976). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 9 of Protocol No. 1 to the agreement between the EEC and the state of Israel and concerning the importation into the community of fruit salads originating in Israel. Brussels, 16 January 1976. 4 pp.	(0 10 164640 2)	12p	18½p
6476	European communities No. 13 (1976). Agreement between the EEC and the republic of Austria on the simplification of formalities in respect of goods traded between the EEC on the one hand and Greece and Turkey on the other hand when the said goods are forwarded from Austria. Vienna, 11 June 1975. [The agreement entered into force on 1 May 1976.] 12 pp.	(0 10 164760 3)	22p	28½p
6497	European communities No. 14 (1976). Developments in the European communities. November 1975-April 1976. 22 pp.	(0 10 164970 3)	35p	41½p

European communities

Publication	Standard book no.	Price	Price including postage
Freedom of movement for workers within the community. Official texts. 24 pp.	(0 11 935448 9)	£1.10	£1.41
Report on the development of the social situation in the communities in 1975 (published in conjunction with the 'Ninth General Report on the activities of the European Communities'). 229 pp.	(0 11 935449 7)	£2.40	£2.63
Study of the European market for industrial nuclear power stations for the mixed production of steam and electricity (by the Societe Serete) Summary report. August 1975. 68 pp.	(0 11 935450 0)	£3.90	£4.03
The agricultural situation in the community. 1975 report (report published in conjunction with the 'Ninth General Report on the activities of the European Communities'). 392 pp.	(0 11 935445 4)	£5.50	£5.92
Directory of the Commission of the European Communities. February 1976. 72 pp.	(0 11 935459 4)	60p	73½p
Fifth report on competition policy (published in conjunction with the 'Ninth General Report on the activities of the communities'). April 1976. 144 pp. + 1 insert.	(0 11 935485 3)	£2.70	£2.88
Report of the results of the business surveys carried out among heads of enterprises in the community. 3/1975. April 1976. 36 pp. Illus.	(0 11 935582 5)	£1.10	£1.24

Supplements to the Bulletin of the European Communities

Date	Publication	Standard book no.	Price	Price including postage
2/76	Opinion on Greek application for membership. 39 pp.	(0 11 935447 0)	60p	71p
3/76	Action programme in favour of migrant workers and their families. 18 pp.	(0 11 935461 6)	30p	39p
6/76	Environment programme 1977-81. Continuation and implementation of a European Community Policy and action programme on the environment. Draft resolution of the council presented by the Commission. 24 March 1976. 47 pp.	(0 11 935462 4)	90p	£1.01

Exhibitions and Fairs

Atmosphere of confidence at Basle WIRE exhibition

From W. B. Powell, Consul, British Consulate, Basle: The Fifth International Wire Exhibition (WIRE '76) was held at the Mustermesse in Basle from 22-26 June.

This was the third appearance of this biennial exhibition at the Mustermesse, which was even more successful than its predecessors. The organisers, Mack-Brooks Exhibitions Ltd. of St. Albans, reported that there were twice as many exhibitors (280 from 16 countries) as at the first WIRE exhibition in Basle. A total of 12,689 visitors came from 65 countries, including Japan, Korea and other Asian countries as well as from Europe and the Americas. The general opinion among exhibitors was that this is the most important exhibition in the world for the wire industry.

A British joint venture, sponsored by the International Wire and Machinery Association, and supported by the BOTB who were responsible for the stands, included 40 British manufacturers. The British exhibit drew much favourable comment, and made a substantial impact on the exhibition. It also served to introduce what was probably the technical highlight of the show, the Conform process for the continuous extrusion of non-ferrous wire, which was developed by the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Two British companies, Babcock Wire Equipment Ltd. and Marshall Richards Barcro Ltd., showed machines employing this process, which drew phenomenal interest.

The British joint ventures at WIRE '76, and at the Seventh International Diecasting Exhibition which was held simultaneously, were visited on 23 June by the British Ambassador in Berne Mr. A. K. Rothnie, accompanied by the Commercial Counsellor and Director of Export Promotion for Switzerland, Mr. J. E. Reeve.

At the end of the exhibition, some individual British exhibitors estimated their potential volume of business to follow in millions of pounds, while estimates for the British exhibit as a whole amounted to tens of millions of pounds. Such figures should naturally be regarded with caution, but there is a firm basis for optimism in that at least 14 British exhibitors (over one third), many of whom do not expect actually to do business at such exhibitions, took orders for over £800,000 worth of equipment – and several were paid on the spot.

Substantial sales were made by Deco Machinery Ltd. (who sold a wire flattening mill worth about £200,000 to a French customer), The General Engineering Co. (Radcliff) Ltd. (£100,000 worth of equipment to Italy and Australia), and Frank Whitelegg (Mfg.) Ltd. who sold £100,000 worth of machinery to customers in the USA, West Germany, France and Greece. Francis Shaw and Co. Ltd., took orders to the value of £250,000, subject only to final confirmation. Other exhibitors who obtained firm orders included Bennett Tools Ltd., The Westminster Engineering Co. Ltd., Hearl Heaton and Sons Ltd., Hudson Forge Ltd., A. Tarr Ltd., Cleckheaton Wire Drawing Die Co., Engis Ltd., Barnaby Engineering Co. (1950) Ltd., Forward Precision Equipment Ltd., and Muirhead Ltd.

All exhibitors made useful contacts, and some met potential agents in various countries. They generally considered that although there seemed to be fewer visitors than in 1974, they were of the right type. The British firms had laid the groundwork for their participation well, and most stands were very busy. An atmosphere of great confidence was clearly apparent, and for the British participants the exhibition was an undoubted success. One went so far as to say that it was the best exhibition in his 20-year experience.

International diecasting exhibition moves to Basle

From W. B. Powell, Consul, British Consulate, Basle: This was the seventh International Diecasting Exhibition in the series organised by Mack-Brooks Exhibitions Ltd. of St. Albans, but the first to take place at the Mustermesse in Basle. It coincided with the fifth International Wire Exhibition, also organised at the Mustermesse by Mack-Brooks Exhibitions Ltd., and both shows may have benefited to some extent from this proximity.

The diecasting exhibition drew 47 exhibitors from eight countries. Eleven of them were British companies participating in a BOTB-supported joint venture sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce, which occupied a relatively large proportion of the exhibition.

Most firms were pleased, or at least satisfied with the exhibition and there was general praise for the joint venture arrangements. Three firms offering diecasting machinery considered that their participation had been successful, while the fourth found it useful in making contacts. For the seven companies manufacturing castings to customers' specification it was naturally more difficult to evaluate the success of the show, which would depend on orders received in the ensuing months; their impressions consequently varied. One company, who had received visitors of 26 different nationalities, considered that their participation had been of great value, and another had obtained substantial inquiries, with a potential value in hundreds of thousands of pounds, from 12 countries. A few exhibitors, on the other hand, were of the view that the number of visitors had been too small for satisfaction.

With the reservations indicated, the reactions to the exhibition may be summarised as generally favourable.

The British Ambassador Alan K. Rothnie (left) visiting one of the British exhibitor's stands at the International Diecasting exhibition in Basle.

High quality attendance at electronics exhibitions

From J. Richards, Senior Commercial Officer, British Consulate-General, Melbourne: Seven British companies took part in the International Computer Electronics Telecommunications Instruments Automation (CETIA) and the International Electrical Electronics Engineering Measurement Control (EEEMC) Exhibition and national convention in Melbourne on 7-11 June.

The joint venture was sponsored by the Measurement Control and Automation Conference (MCAC) in co-operation with the BOTB and was organised by British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA).

The British exhibitors included cash dispensers by Chubb Integrated Systems Ltd., electrical and electronic indicating instruments and calibration strobostrope from Crompton Parkinson Instruments Ltd. New switching devices connectors and terminals were shown by Klippon Electricals Ltd., filter papers and advanced chromatographic products by Whatman Ltd. Vero Electronics included in their display the new Vero integrated packaging and fast wiring system. On show also was the constructional system for cabinets by Widney Dorlec and Hawker Siddeley Electric Exports Ltd., showed electric meters and fuse links for the mining industry and a battery electrical vehicle which attracted much interest.

These British manufacturers were the sole government-backed overseas exhibitors. A total of 74 companies took part in this exhibition which was attended by a comparative low total of about 5,000 people. However, exhibitors reported that the quality of attendances was high. The convention programme took place in conjunction with the exhibition and attracted some 800 delegates.

The next CETIA is planned to take place again in Melbourne in October 1978, whereas the next EEEMC Exhibition will take place in Sydney in October 1977.

Successful British participation at cardiology show in Amsterdam

British firms returning from the exhibition of medical equipment organised in Amsterdam in connection with the 7th Congress of Cardiology, 20-25 June, expressed satisfaction at having taken part in this event which is considered as a shop-window for the results of recent research and advances and attended by some 3,000 cardiologists from all over the world.

A group of eight companies exhibited with the backing of the BOTB. Among them, Cambridge Medical Instruments Ltd. are reporting a lot of interest shown in their new three channel electro cardiograph and their stress test system. Devices Ltd., of Hertford, are expecting that 'inquiries received from old and new contacts from many parts of the world will result in very good business'. Another firm, Cardio Vascular Instruments Ltd., of Welwyn Garden City, received positive inquiries from Scandinavia, Italy and Holland. In addition they sold equipment including a cardiac output computer for demonstration in East European countries as a promotion effort.

Among British firms exhibiting independently, Reynolds Medical Electronics, of Hertford, sold five arrythmia computer systems to hospitals in the Netherlands and Sweden. The Dutch cardiologist Professor D. Durrer, of Amsterdam, bought two systems and the three other systems were bought by University Hospitals in Sweden.

Some of the British stands at the European Congress of Cardiology.

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BOTB News

Unique directory of published market research

An International Directory of Published Market Research has been published by the British Overseas Trade Board in association with Research and Finance Management (International) Ltd. The aim of the directory is to promote exports by widely disseminating research and data on foreign markets.

Its comprehensive coverage of more than 3,000 reports on consumer and industrial products will include everything from slimming foods to computers and baby clothes to lasers. This world-wide directory includes studies of East European, Middle Eastern, Far Eastern, African and South American markets as well as reports on the more usual West European and North American markets.

The studies listed in the directory have been carried out by over 300 of the world's leading market research and consultancy firms.

The directory lists the title of each study in English, French and German, the date of issue from 1972 through to 1976, the geographic coverage of the report, the price and the sources from which the report can be obtained. A special effort has been made to identify precisely the major products/services covered by each study and to list these in a comprehensive alphabetical index for ease of reference.

This directory will not be just a one-off book but a continuing information system, updated annually. It is in a paperback, 'no frills' form and is an authoritative guide to published information on foreign markets. The study records are being held in computer files so that future annual revisions can be accomplished quickly. Customer records are also computerised to minimise the delay between publication and receipt on the subscriber's desk.

The International Directory of Published Market Research is available now. The price is £8.00 per copy plus 50p per order for handling. Orders or requests for a special brochure describing the directory should be sent to: International Research Directory, British Overseas Trade Board, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

Scottish Council Trade Group returns

On 10 July 1976 a Scottish Council Trade Group, under the leadership of Lord Taylor of Gryfe, set off for Moscow. They return to the UK this evening (16 July). The group includes 17 manufacturers covering capital equipment, engineering products, raw materials, electronic equipment, foodstuffs, clothing, textiles and whisky. This is the third visit of its kind organised by the Scottish Council Development and Industry with the financial support and co-operation of the BOTB.

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Prospects for metrology and tooling equipment in Japan

A detailed analysis of potential growth areas for British metrology and tooling equipment in Japan is given in a report published by the British Overseas Trade Board. 'The Japanese Market for Metrology and Tooling Equipment' states that 'Imports are expected to increase at an average annual compound growth rate of 15 per cent during the next three years'.

The report provides comprehensive guidance on the size of the Japanese market, product evaluation, and market factors including the competitive position of UK products and potential customers and end-users.

Referring to tooling equipment, the report undertakes a detailed examination of five areas in particular – diamond tools, machine tools units, jigs and fixtures, press tools, and moulds for plastic injection. For metrology equipment, it examines export prospects in three areas: mechanical gauges, optical equipment, and electrical/electronic measuring equipment.

The report draws attention to a factor which is claimed to have hindered penetration of the Japanese market by UK manufacturers – a lack of adequate effort in sales promotion. Aggressive selling campaigns are recommended as a remedy and one course open to UK manufacturers and exporters is to exhibit at the metrology and tooling exhibition in March 1977 at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo.

'The Japanese Market for Metrology and Tooling Equipment' was prepared for the BOTB by Peat Marwick Mitchell and Co., Tokyo. It is a completely revised and updated report replacing an earlier edition published in November 1973. This new report updates the information on metrology and provides a much extended analysis on tooling equipment.

The report, price £20 post free, is available to British manufacturers from the Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Export year adviser visits west country

Export Year Adviser Roy Earnshaw talked with west country firms and organisations when he made his first visit to the region as part of the Export Year campaign.

He spent two days (12-13 July) visiting Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bristol and had discussions with senior management and representatives of organisations, including the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Shipping, the West of England Engineering Employers' Association and the Regional Council of the TUC. Mr. Earnshaw's visit was one of a series he is making to different parts of the country offering expert advice on how to start and run an Export Year.

Commenting on the campaign, Mr. Earnshaw said: 'It has got away to a most encouraging start. The demand for the booklet "A Guide to Your Export Year" has been such that over 10,000 copies have been distributed and there has had to be a reprint. All the signs are that we have embarked on a really successful campaign.

'What we can and must do,' he continued, 'is to try by all means in our power to get it home to all who are in any way involved in Britain's overseas trade that there has been a serious downward trend, and encourage people, by informing and involving them, that there is a contribution which each can make towards improving the situation.'

Comet trade mission to Japan

A trade mission under the leadership of Lord Limerick visited Jordan from 18 to 26 May. The mission, covering a wide cross-section of British business, was organised by the Committee on Middle East Trade (COMET) which, under Lord Limerick's chairmanship, is the BOTB's Area Advisory Group for Middle East markets. Their programme included meetings with Ministers, Government departments, banking and planning bodies, as well as firms in the private sector.

A mission report has been prepared, and single copies are obtainable free of charge from Mr. Brower, Room 305, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, tel. 01-215 5576 or 01-215 5376.

Japanese shipbuilders buy British stabilisers

This 65-ton stabiliser was built by an Edinburgh company, Brown Brothers, who have completed a £520,000 order to supply what are believed to be the largest ship's stabilisers in the world for two vessels under construction in Japan. The stabilisers, due to arrive in Japan on 13 August, are for two 27,000-ton roll-on ferries being built for Morland Navigation, a Greek company, by the Kawasaki Shipyard at Kobe. The Edinburgh firm secured the contract because they were able to undercut their competitors – the Japanese – by £50,000 and offer better delivery dates. Morland Navigation have done business with Brown Brothers in the past and insisted that the Scottish company carry out the work. It is particularly significant since Brown Brothers' products are manufactured under licence in Japan. It is the first time that Brown Brothers have built stabilisers of this size since the late 1960s, and those were for the QE2. Each stabiliser weighs 65 tons and the overall area is in the region of 200 square feet. Brown Brothers are now expecting the demand for these huge stabilisers to increase. The company, which is expected to export between 55 and 60 per cent of their throughput this year, also manufactures ship's steering gear, heave compensators, and rise tensioners.

Trade and Industry special report

West Midlands the heart of England

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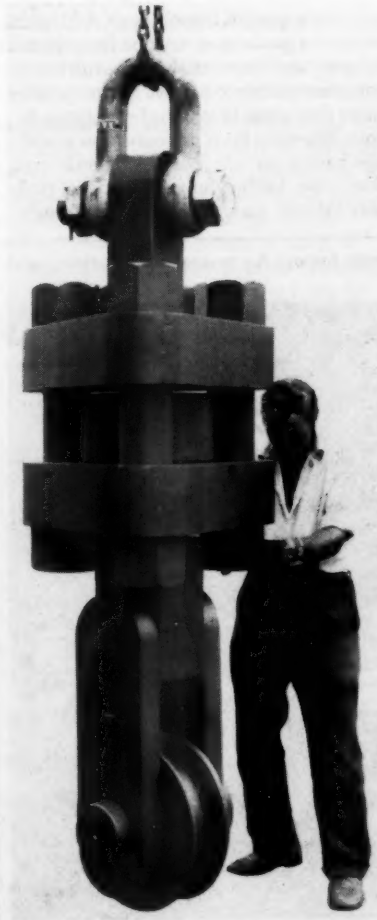
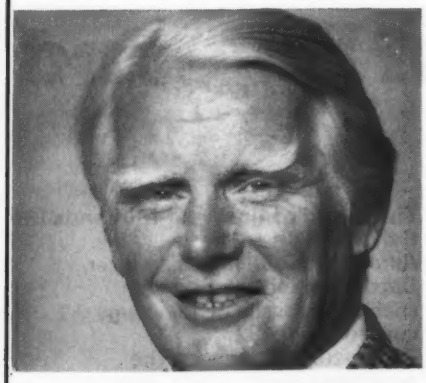
Swivel for under water use, made by Ansell Jones and Co. Ltd., Walsall.



Top: Little Venice, bordering Birmingham's city centre. Middle: Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford. Bottom: Europe's finest, the National Exhibition Centre.

The West Midlands: the heart of England



John Thompson, Regional Director, Department of Industry, writes about the most important aspects of the region's economy. He has worked in or visited most parts of the world. For much of the past 11 years he has been in charge of regional offices of Government departments, in different parts of the country.

The recession from which we are emerging has hit the West Midlands harder than anything since the war, but industry in the region, now leaner and fitter, should be able to capitalise dramatically as the upturn becomes more apparent.

The West Midlands is undoubtedly the industrial heart of our country. It can also claim to be the cultural and geographical heart. It houses the birth-place of Shakespeare and has Meriden, the very centre of England.

But primarily it has a greater dependence on manufacturing industry than any other region or part of the British Isles. Britain's wealth depends upon manufacturing industry. Thus whereas a recession in world trade is bound to hit the West Midlands harder than elsewhere, the converse is equally true.

What is the West Midlands?

The Economic Planning Region of the West Midlands consists of the West Midland County Council area, embracing the great industrial conurbation of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry, with the surrounding counties of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester, and Warwickshire. Almost half – 48 per cent – of the regional workforce is employed in the manufacturing industry. That is a higher proportion than for any other region.

The biggest industries are engineering and metal manufacturing. These embrace not only mechanical and electrical engineering but also, very importantly, vehicle manufacture. More than one in four of Britain's workers in the vehicle assembly industry is in the region. An even greater proportion is in the production of vehicle components. Leyland Cars has its headquarters in Coventry. So does Chrysler (UK) Ltd. Since cars are Britain's most important export the region's contribution can readily be appreciated.

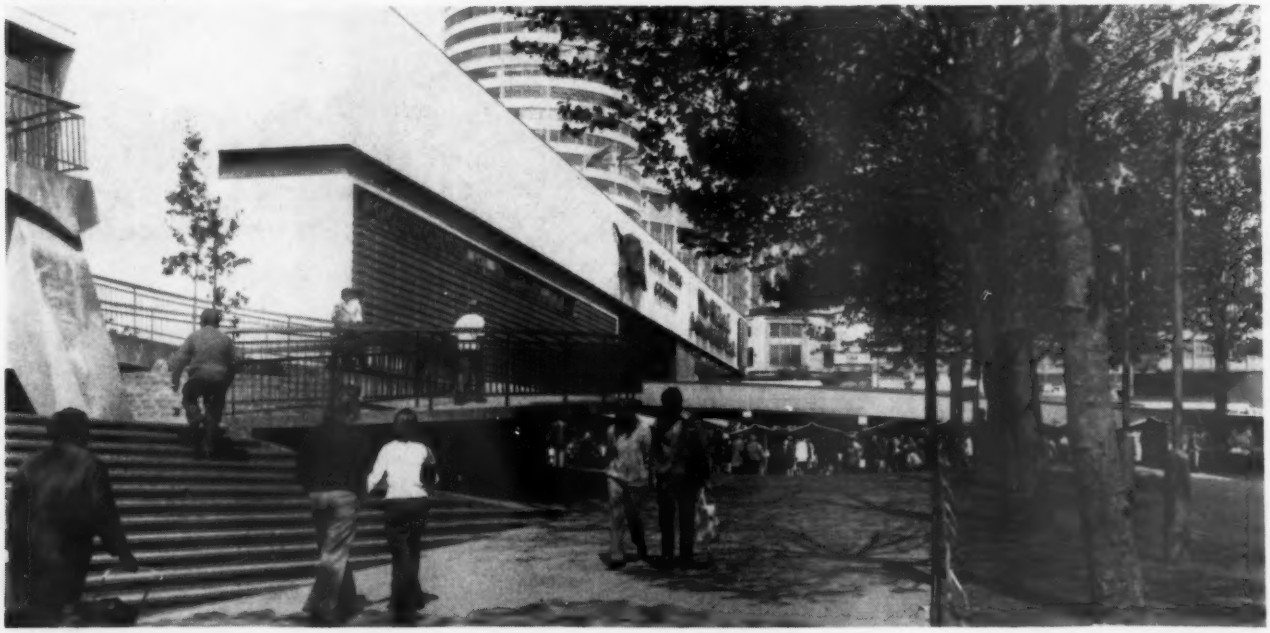
Derek Whittaker, the managing director of Leyland Cars sets out, elsewhere in this issue, an indication of the progress his company has made since they began implementing the Ryder recommendations. Bob Wright of the AEU gives a trade union view of what it all means. The West Midlands has many other great firms with household names in the vehicle component industry – Lucas, GKN, Rubery Owen, Automotive Products, Associated Engineering.

All now look to a solid and progressive improvement in their business.

Pots to pints

Of Britain's top 1,000 companies with headquarters outside the South East 22 per cent have their headquarters in the West Midlands. The bulk of the country's pottery industry is to be found in Staffordshire where the two biggest and best known firms are Wedgwood and Royal Doulton. Both of these great companies have been relatively unaffected by the recession and are ready to expand further. There is a great concentration of the carpet industry around Kidderminster. Additionally we have a good representation from the steel industry and from coal mining, with our collieries tending to achieve greater productivity than those in many other regions. A comprehensive list of our industries would also have to include jewellery manufacture, silverware, leather, fur goods – in fact probably the only major industries not strongly

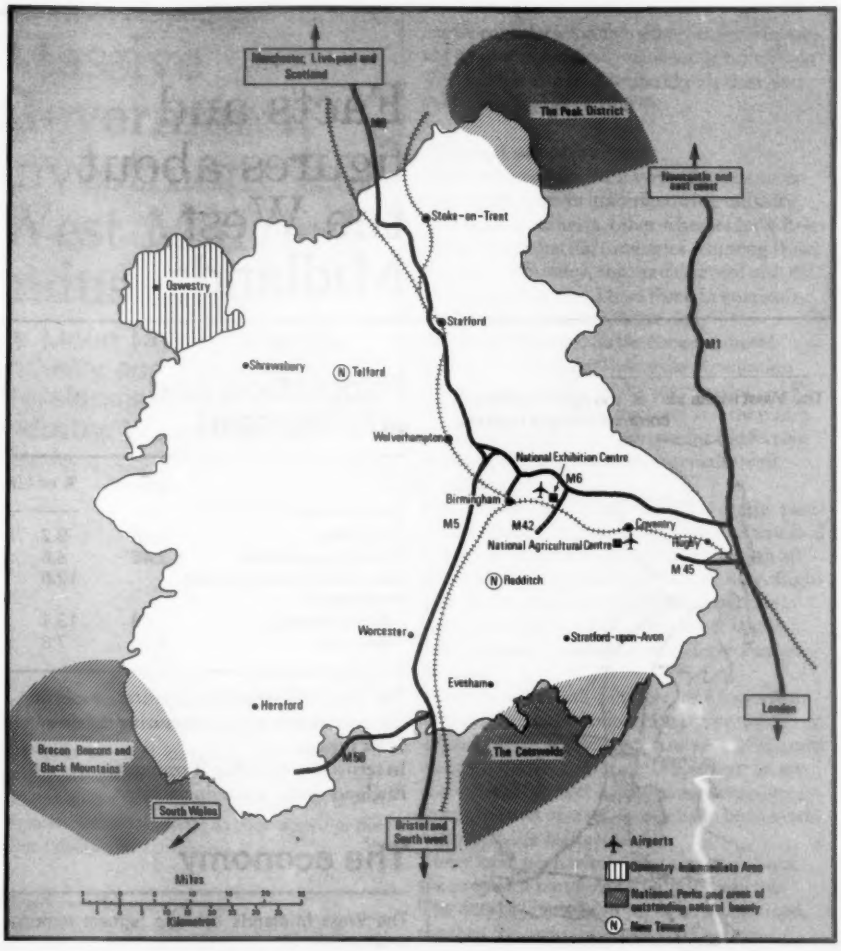
One of the many traffic-free shopping areas in the City of Birmingham. This is part of the Bull Ring centre, famous for its open market dating back to the 12th century.



represented are shipbuilding and airframe manufacture.
It used to be said 'Britain Can Take It'. The West Midlands Can Certainly Make It!
And despite the enormous concentration of manufacturing industry the region is very strong in agriculture. It was not by accident that the National Agricultural Centre was established at Stoneleigh. The Vale of Evesham produces almost a fifth of England's fruit, while the County of Hereford and Worcester contributes, with Kent, the lion's share of our hop production. As a consequence Burton upon Trent and Birmingham have some of the country's most important breweries, while Bulmers Cider uses local apples.

Culture and invention
Since the Bard himself hailed from this part of the country one need not catalogue any lesser names, though Arnold Bennett will always be identified with the West Midlands. The region has produced also some of our finest engineers, thereby contributing greatly to the Industrial Revolution. Although it seems invidious to select individuals all will know of Watt and Telford
Birmingham, which received its Royal Charter in 1900, is the biggest of our universities and its engineering and medical faculties continue to be pace-setters in their contributions to society. We also have the Universities of Aston, Warwick and of Keele and the Polytechnics of Birmingham, North Staffs, Wolverhampton and Lanchester.

The future
It is especially encouraging in these gloomy times to be able to identify five aspects in which the regional prospects are excellent and with great potential benefit for the country as a whole. Let's just take them one by one.



Industrial investment – Although the West Midlands, with the exception of the Oswestry Intermediate Area, is not an assisted area, it has not been deprived of Government investment assistance. Apart from the massive national investment in British Leyland, in Chrysler (UK) Ltd., and in Alfred Herberts, the Government is doing much to bring forward industrial investment in the region. Leslie Taylor reports more extensively on this in his article elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it for me to say that many of our biggest firms are being helped to re-equip themselves in readiness for the upturn, and the consequences of this will undoubtedly channel corresponding benefits to their smaller subcontractors. For example, three of the firms featured in this issue have benefitted. Wilmot Breeden and Cannings Ltd., have been assisted under the accelerated investment scheme while Castings Ltd., have been assisted under the ferrous foundry scheme.

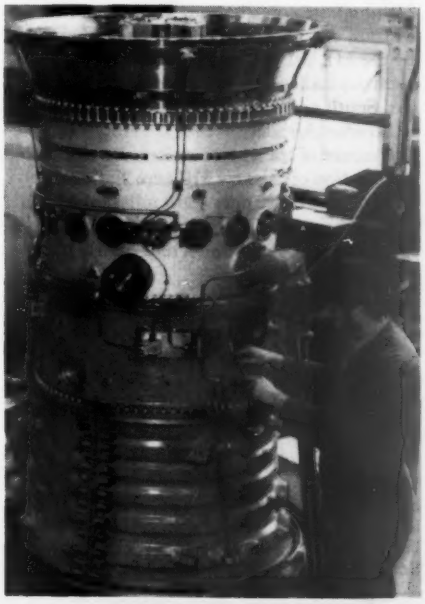
Exports – The West Midlands region makes a massive and growing contribution to Britain's exports. Fourteen firms which have much of their operations in the region accounted last year for exports worth £1,233,000,000. More than a third of that total, £589,000,000 in fact, came from British Leyland. The company is our biggest exporter. The overseas sales total well illustrates its importance to the national economy.
The Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce has always been in the forefront of export promotion. This year it is arranging 21 overseas missions, with the help of the British Overseas Trade Board and the Department of Trade. I have no doubt that the region will make an outstanding contribution to the export year which has just begun.

The National Exhibition Centre – Robert Booth has written about the NEC in this issue. I would like to add that in my view the opening of the Centre has been the best shot in the arm the West Midlands has had for more than a quarter of a century. For many years to come the National Exhibition Centre will be an exciting shop window for the products of this region. Full credit to the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry and to the former Birmingham City Council for planning and building the Centre. It should not be forgotten also that it could not have been built without the support, financial and otherwise, of the Department of Trade.

Offshore supplies – Although our region is entirely landlocked, it can still capitalise on the new opportunities provided by North Sea exploration and exploitation. Cyril Beavor has described what is going on. His article, I hope, will encourage other firms to explore this challenging new potential growth area.

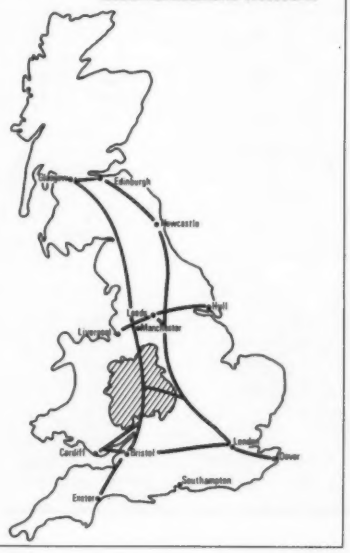
Energy conservation – The West Midlands has long been in the forefront in energy management activities in industry, as Alfred Mendoza's article shows. It is a vital issue in our national economy, and increasingly so. Britain's energy bill last year was £9,000 million. A 10 per cent cut in this is easily achievable. As our external trade deficit last year was about £1,700 million, a saving of £900 million would obviously be of great significance, particularly when one appreciates that prior to exploitation of our North Sea reserves all our oil was imported.

Preparing an industrial version of the RB 211 aero engine at Rolls Royce, near Coventry, for Canada.



Facts and figures about the West Midlands

The West Midlands : at the heart of Britain's communications network



Strategic location

The West Midlands, the only completely landlocked region, is strategically situated in the centre of England. Almost all the major English centres of population, industry and commerce are within a 100-mile radius of the Birmingham conurbation. The region is at the heart of the motorway network being served by the M1, M5 and M6. It has excellent rail communications, particularly to the North and South and a range of scheduled air services to Elmdon Airport.

The extent of transport services was vital in the location of the new 310-acre National Exhibition Centre only eight miles from both Birmingham and Coventry. It has parking space for 15,000 cars and a half-hourly train service to London.

From Birmingham

	Rail time hours	Road distance miles
London	1¾	110
Bristol	1¾	87
Cardiff	2	102
Glasgow	4½	287
Hull	3½	124
Leeds	2½	109
Liverpool	1¾	90
Southampton	3	128

Population and employment

	million	% of UK
Population	5.18	9.2
Working population	2.46	9.6
Net manufacturing output		12.5
Employment		
Manufacturing	1.08	13.7
Services	1.00	7.8

The West Midlands has a greater proportion of its workforce in manufacturing than any other region.
In terms of population Birmingham is England's largest provincial city.

The economy

The West Midlands has the highest regional proportions of:	
Employees in manufacturing	48%
Britain's top 1,000 companies with headquarters outside London and the South East	22%
The British pottery industry	over 80%
The British car industry	about 33⅓%

Education

Student populations

Universities	
Birmingham	7,630
Aston	4,050
Warwick	3,370
Keele	2,310
Polytechnics	
Birmingham	8,630
North Staffs	4,011
Wolverhampton	4,018
Lanchester (Coventry)	3,000

Skills

	Regional %
Employers, managers, professionals	10.9
Non-manual	23.1
Skilled manual	25.7
Semi-skilled manual	19.7
Unskilled manual	7.0
Others	13.6

Services

	Employees	% of GB
Public utilities	29,600	8.8
Distributive trades	235,600	8.7
Professional and scientific services	276,400	8.4
Miscellaneous services	169,400	8.1
Public administration	117,000	7.5
Construction	106,800	8.3

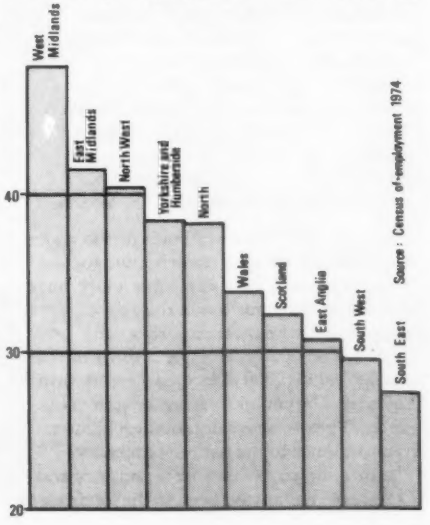
Manufacturing in the region is mainly concentrated in the Birmingham/Black Country/Coventry conurbation and in North Staffordshire.

Large country areas to the west and south are relatively sparsely populated and many of the towns are important centres of tourism and agriculture. Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare), the Vale of Evesham (fruit), Hereford (cattle and cider) are all world famous.

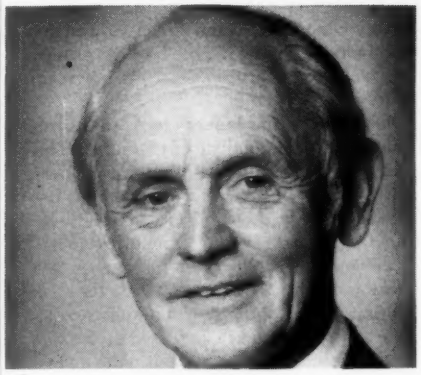
Manufacturing

	Employees	% of GB
Food, drink, tobacco	59,800	8.1
Metal manufacture	126,100	24.9
Mechanical engineering	132,100	13.7
Electrical engineering	112,000	13.5
Vehicles	203,100	25.9
Metal goods (NES)	184,800	32.0
Leather, leather goods and fur	5,200	12.3
Bricks, pottery, glass, cement	73,000	24.7
Other manufacturing industries	54,500	15.6

Percentage employment in manufacturing



Massive Government investment in West Midlands' industries



by Leslie Taylor, Director, Industry and Regional Development, Department of Industry, West Midlands Region.

The Government's assistance to companies in the vehicle and machine tool industries involves massive investment in the West Midlands.

British Leyland has access to a Government investment of up to £1,400 million over the next 10 years. More than half will be in the region.

Chrysler (UK) has access to up to £162.5 million. Again, more than half will be in the West Midlands.

Alfred Herberts, the leading tool manufacturer, has had assistance totalling £26.2 million. The company's headquarters and most of its factories are in the region.

It is hoped that the fruits of these investments will be enjoyed for several years to come not only by the companies themselves but by their innumerable suppliers and sub-contractors in the region.

These are the well-known special cases. I should like now to dwell on the more general schemes to aid investment operated by the Department of Industry, as they apply to the West Midlands.

Accelerated investment

Fully aware of the need to expand and to modernise, many of our firms had completed plans for big investments but then felt obliged to hold back because of the economic situation. The Department's accelerated investment scheme, intended to encourage just such companies to go ahead now, has consequently attracted a great deal of attention. Applications for financial assistance with 16 projects in the West Midlands with a total capital investment of £48 million have already been approved; the Department currently has under consideration five other projects involving capital expenditure of about £4.5 million. The scheme closes in September but we are still receiving new inquiries.

Tailored schemes

While the accelerated investment scheme is open to all firms in manufacturing industry who meet the criteria, other schemes have been designed for specific industries – among them the ferrous foundry, the machine tool and the clothing industries. These three in particular are being exploited in the region.

The West Midlands is the home of metal-working; indeed the Industrial Revolution started here. Today we have more than half the country's ironfounders and it is therefore not surprising that the scheme for the ferrous foundry industry has been especially well received.

Cash grants are being made to many companies to help them modernise their plants and rationalise their activities and more than 50 applications have been received to date. Eight of these, for projects totalling £17 million, have been approved and grants are being made, usually covering about 20 per cent of the cost.

A similar scheme to help machine tool manufacturers is also popular and applications from six companies are being considered. One grant has been made. Under the clothing industry scheme two offers of financial assistance towards the cost of consultancy have been made to firms in the region.

There have been many inquiries also about the proposed non-ferrous foundry scheme. The details of this have yet to be announced, so when the assistance does start we expect a big response.

We hope that firms will realise that whereas the accelerated investment scheme, which was intended to cover a short critical period in our economic recovery, ends in September, the other tailored schemes will still be open and new applications will be welcomed.

It has been said that investment is the seed corn of industry. If this is so then I am pleased to say that a lot of planting is taking place in the West Midlands.

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Trade and Industry puts the facts first.

Clear for the way ahead

Derek Whittaker, managing director, Leyland Cars, writes about the reorganisation of BLMC following the Ryder Report, plans for the future and the overall effect of both on the West Midlands.

Leyland Cars has only been in existence for nine months. Born out of the reorganisation of the British Leyland Motor Corporation following Lord Ryder's searching inquiry and subsequent recommendations to the Government, the Group has spent that time under the close, unrelenting scrutiny of the public and the press.

Our every action, the problems and traumas, minor and major, which have punctuated our progress during those nine months have been closely analysed, and sometimes criticised.

Yet, during that time, major evidence of our progress and plans towards profitability and the dominant position in the UK car market has gone unnoticed. For the West Midlands, where the major concentration of our activities is located, the increase in employment levels within Leyland Cars is of far-reaching significance to the area's future prospects.

After the publication of the Ryder Report in April 1975, and the subsequent reorganisation of British Leyland which led to it being restructured into four major business groups with a streamlined corporate staff based in London; employment within Leyland Cars, the group which incorporates the manufacture of cars, light commercials and four-wheel-drive vehicles, bottomed out at 114,000. This was in line with the recommendations of the Ryder Report which urged a policy of realistic manning levels. The levels which we proceeded to programme however were based on over-cautious forecasts of demand within the UK market. It was an error we freely admitted. Indeed, it is significant that every other major UK motor manufacturer under estimated the extent of the market's recovery after the dramatic and sudden decline in demand experienced during 1973-74.

Increase in sales

A total UK market of 1.3 million new cars this year is now anticipated and we are building up our productivity and manning levels to meet that demand. The world-wide increase in sales is also placing further substantial demands on our capacity through Leyland International, the business group which handles our European and overseas sales.

During the period January to April this year our export sales totalled £213 million. This was a 63 per cent increase on the same period last year. Total British Leyland exports including those of Leyland Truck and Bus and Leyland Special Products amounted to £286 million, a 47 per cent increase on last year's comparable figures. During the same period this year other UK manufacturers and component producers increased their export totals by 33 per cent contributing to an overall motor industry export increase of 37 per cent. The dominant role being played by Leyland Cars is obvious.

What we are now experiencing and planning for is an export-led, volume growth, some would term it a boom, and we are gearing up to keep pace with that growth right through 1976 and into 1977.

In the early part of this year our production figures slumped through a series of very damaging disputes. Since then however we have made very real, substantial progress in a determined drive to step up production.

I have a strict policy of allowing results to speak for themselves. I do not make forecasts for the future without evidence of real achievement to give them substance and credibility.

When we set about increasing production we

The huge new Leyland Cars factory at Solihull. Part of a total investment of almost £95 million, the plant will make a significant contribution to UK balance of payments as well as to national and local economies.

Great cars and a great deal more.

The new Rover 3500 and the Triumph TR7 give only a glimpse of the shape of things to come from Leyland Cars.

But today's new car buyer rightly expects more than advanced styling and engineering.

He sees as equally important the back-up service offered by both manufacturer and dealer.

And to this end we have introduced Supercover – the finest after sales commitment ever made by a motor manufacturer.

We have developed a servicing system called Leycare, which ensures maintenance to stringent standards laid down by Leyland engineers.

And have created the huge Unipart network to make sensibly priced parts available anywhere in the Country.

It's the best new car deal in Britain. At around 3000 Leyland Distributors and Dealers, now.

Leyland Cars

With Supercover.

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Clear for the way ahead
continued

set ourselves a target figure of 19,000 vehicles per week by June. That target was met on time and has been met consistently over a period of some weeks. We now plan to increase that figure towards 22,000 vehicles per week by August and by December we will be planning production programmes of up to 25,000 vehicles per week. These are all realistic targets. They are well within our capability so long as we maintain continuity of production unhindered by stoppages through disputes either inside or outside Leyland Cars.

Employment growth

As a direct result of this very considerable increase in production our manning levels have had to be stepped up to keep pace. Leyland Cars currently has a total workforce of approximately 120,000. By the end of December, as production climbs, we will employ some 5,000 to 8,000 more, the vast majority of them working, and living, in the West Midlands. In percentage terms such an increase represents approximately 10 per cent growth in employment within Leyland Cars during the course of 1976.

This 10 per cent increase in employment will have been accompanied, if we stay on target and there is no reason why we should not, by a 21 per cent genuine increase in per unit productivity.

The effect of our increase in production programmes will reach outside the Group. The heaviest concentration of the largest suppliers to Leyland Cars and the rest of the motor industry is based in the West Midlands. The likelihood is that our 10 per cent increase in employment will be exceeded by those suppliers for, if the CPRS report is correct in its estimation of the efficiency of the components industry, they will be starting off from a more efficient base.

My optimism for the future is based on the increasing involvement and commitment of our senior employees through the participation system, the reshaping of our current model range, the exciting new models we are now developing for the future and, more immediately, the new Rover 3500.

This new generation executive model embodies so much of our future strategy. It combines beautiful styling, excellent engineering, superb ride and handling and startling fuel economy for a car powered by a 3.5 litre V8 engine. Our research shows it to have enormous sales potential which will carve out an even larger slice of the executive car market for Leyland Cars and, as most of the competition in this area is foreign, it will help redress Britain's balance of payments. It is a car which has been planned to compete head-on with the other European specialist makes in their own home markets. We plan to sell 50 per cent of our output of this new model into Europe and other overseas markets.

Massive investment

The new Rover 3500 also represents a truly massive investment by Leyland of £95 million. A new paint plant and assembly hall, purpose-built for the new car, has been constructed at Solihull at a cost of £31 million and the remainder of the £95 million invested in tooling and developing the car itself and re-equipping other Leyland Cars plants producing components for it. The new Solihull facility, which brings together the latest paint technology with the most modern trim and final assembly operations, is the largest, single development project undertaken by the British motor industry for 40 years, proof enough of our faith in our future.

During the nine months of our existence we have launched the Jaguar XJ-S, introduced the Triumph TR7 sports car to the UK and European market, introduced the Marina II and Allegro II, rationalised the Princess and Dolomite ranges and continued to improve the ageless Mini, still one of our top sellers. We also have some of the finest engineering talent in the world working on the Leyland cars of the future.

All this is of course worthless without the commitment of our employees.

The industrial relations problems experienced by Leyland Cars need no repetition here but I am convinced that we are now entering a new era of closer understanding with our employees. The much-publicised disputes of March and April may appear to contradict such a claim but they were not troubles of our making. They were brought about by the inflexibility of the Government's pay policy over which we have no control.

Our greatest, single hope for the future is undoubtedly participation and through it the involvement of all of our employees in the affairs of the Group. No longer are they presented with a 'fait accompli'; they have a real influence on decision taking within the Group. Participation was one of the key recommendations contained in the Ryder Report and I am convinced it is the only way we will ultimately achieve the consistently high levels of productivity through continuity of work which we need. There is very definite evidence coming back to me from the senior employee representatives that the message stressing the absolute necessity for continuity of production is being increasingly understood by the workforce. Our greatest need in the area of participation is time to make it work and time to devise schemes whereby more and more employees will become involved in participation and the decision making process until everyone in Leyland Cars genuinely believes he is being involved in both current performance and the future of his company.

A common purpose

Two recent events illustrate the way in which everyone in Leyland Cars – management, unions and employees – is being brought together by a common purpose.

One of the first real tests of participation came with our announcement of proposals for the future of Canley in Coventry. At present Canley is one of our major car assembly sites but now assembly will be phased out and instead the plant will machine and assemble a new range of engines and gearboxes on new machinery which will be introduced progressively between 1977 and 1980.

The senior employee representatives on the Joint Management Council – the highest level of the participation system – could recognise the Group's need of Canley as a major power train site. We assured them and the Plant's Works Committees that there would be no redundancies and that in the long term it could mean more jobs at Canley.

Meanwhile, those who prefer to remain on vehicle assembly will be offered the opportunity to transfer to either the new Solihull plant where one of the production lines will be used to assemble the successful Dolomite range, at present produced at Canley or elsewhere within the West Midlands area or will be offered re-training as power train machine operators, etc. In days past the absence of the dialogue we now enjoy with our employees through participation could have produced a damaging confrontation over an issue such as this.

Meanwhile, another of the major recommendations of the Ryder Report and always a long-term ambition of British Leyland's senior management – common dates for wage bargaining for hourly paid employees – is being actively examined by a joint body set up following discussions between management, national union officials and shop stewards.

We are all agreed that this is a useful step in improving the prospects of the Group and its employees.

All the objectives the Ryder Report set Leyland Cars are being pursued. For the Group and its employees this means a brighter prospect of a secure, prosperous future with all that a successful motor industry will mean to the economy of the West Midlands. We should all now be able to see more clearly the way ahead.

The new Rover 3500, a stylish and lavishly equipped five-door saloon launched by Leyland Cars for the executive sector of the market.

Signposted for the future

by Bob Wright, executive council member, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (engineering section), with particular responsibility for the motor industry.

In approaching an assessment of the changes and developments of participation in British Leyland Car Division, one cannot ignore the historical industrial importance of the West Midlands region to our engineering industry in particular, and our industrial well-being, particularly in the export world, that flow from this tremendously important economic region of our country.

It has, as a background, some of the oldest engineering and metal producing industries in Britain, and equally it has pioneered the development of mass production, particularly in the car industry world, and the technology and knowhow is of enormous importance to British industry in general and the region in particular. In recent years, we have seen a developing retardation of our economy, due partly to overseas influences and world recession, brought about by imbalances of economies and the injection of a third force of international companies who can upset the balance of economic exchange between nations and also by particular effect on British industry due, in the main, to lack of investment extending over a period of some 30 years.

There are other forces, which include the emergence of the Arab nations and the oil crisis, which flowed from their demands, and also the effect of investment in the developing world on traditional countries such as Great Britain. It does not, of course, follow that those industries who have maintained investment and development are guilty, although they have been affected as a consequence of the general retardation, but are most likely to emerge when the economy of Britain begins to revive.

The enormous potential

In looking at British Leyland and the enormous potential which I believe can develop in this British-owned and based manufacturing organisation, one must examine a little of the motor industry in the European context. The Central Policy Review Staff, who are responsible direct to the Cabinet of the Government of the day, entered into a deep survey of the future of the British car industry. The impact of that survey and the arguments that have flowed since its publication in 1975 are of tremendous importance to our future strategy and the wrong conclusions could do enormous harm to the recovery of the British car sector of our industries.

The present picture is alarming enough. The car industry represents one of our biggest exporters, or did so until recent years. We are now, on the May 1976 figures, importing into Britain, to displace British made cars, some 37 per cent of our home consumption in motor cars. Quite frankly, whatever arguments prevail for not interfering with that picture, it certainly represents economic bedlam. In 1966 Leyland produced for export 317,000 units. In 1975 it had fallen to 256,000 units. Worse still, Ford UK in 1966 produced for export 191,000 units; in 1975 89,000 units. Vauxhall, in 1966, 63,000 units; 1975, 21,000 units. In this period Chrysler has shown an increase from 50,000 to 160,000 the bulk of which are KD (knocked down) cars for assembly in Iran.

Couple the above picture with the continued barrage from economists and bankers, arguing that in Europe, particularly the EEC countries, there are too many car manufacturers and these, it is argued, are creating false competition and there is a need for mergers and rationalisation. Unless our British-based factories are brought to a higher level of efficiency, and we can master the critical design and reliability complaints which persistently are aimed at British car manufacturers, we will inevitably become more vulnerable than West Germany and France, and the present indications point towards that ultimate position.

Integrated production

I have no doubt that international companies, such as Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, will move towards integrated production in the European region of the world. Ford, in the production of the Granada, now transferred to Germany, the Fiesta, the new light car, to be produced in Spain, and for our home market in Britain, with Chrysler and the production of the Alpine and other new models in France, and the attempt to recreate viability of their factories in Britain, must all be seen as part of that enormous challenge. I therefore make no apology for saying that Britain must take whatever steps are necessary, with the backing of the trade unions, to ensure that British Leyland, now all but publicly owned, must not only survive but expand in order to meet the challenge of the future of a British-based and viable car manufacturer. I do not subscribe to the views often expressed that the problems flow from either lazy or strike-happy workers in our car industries. If guilt needs to be pinned, it is that none of those involved in the industry have spent sufficient time in sitting down and planning labour policies, production policies, and security of employment, over extended periods. I believe that that opportunity now confronts us in British Leyland.

The participation programme devised on the general guidelines enunciated in the Ryder Report, undoubtedly left many progressive thinking trade unionists disappointed and in some doubt as to its credibility, but the team of shop stewards and officials, who were involved in developing the programme that is now in operation, exploited to the full the ingredients that were available to us. In the course of time we will either prove or be denied, in our contentions that we should have achieved full control and participation from the beginning, but we have made it clear that our experience will be assessed and, if necessary, the machinery that has been established will be reviewed based on those assessments. I believe that the present management team is genuinely aiming at full and frank disclosures of all policies which the company intend to pursue, not only on those issues that directly affect employment, but on the planning and development strategies that accompany them. British Leyland can and will be able to harness the skill, experience and, I believe, commonsense, of thousands of workers employed within the company, who are prepared to contribute in a positive way towards the recovery and development of a successful British-owned car manufacturing facility. I believe that path has been signposted. Much needs to be done to ensure that the right decisions are taken at the right time and that the machinery of participation which has now been devised will be of enormous importance and assistance in bringing about that kind of result.

On the production line at Leyland Cars' new Solihull factory, Rover 3500 painted and trimmed bodies ready to receive the mechanical units.

Offshore from onshore

by Cyril Beavor, – Offshore Liaison Officer, Department of Industry, West Midlands Region, who is responsible for liaising with regional firms who want to get into the international offshore market and those in it who require assistance.

The Offshore Supplies Office and the Petroleum Engineering Directorate, both parts of the Department of Energy, are the two Government organisations most concerned with offshore hydrocarbon activities in the UK. The Department of Energy has no regional offices so we in the Department of Industry act as agents for them.

In the West Midlands we are in contact with some 950 firms who are in the offshore market, or would like to be. We estimate that about 350 are really active. Their range of manufacture is vast, from billiard tables to flare stacks, from seals weighing a few ounces to steel fabrications weighing more than 100 tonnes. Offshore, onshore, oilmen know 'If it's wanted, the West Midlands will make it'. Recently I had a telephone call from a firm in Great Yarmouth. They wanted a test certificate for a 100 tonnes shackle for lifting heavy equipment such as a module on to a steel tower. Could we put them in touch with a test house? We could – Lloyds British Testing Co. Ltd., Dudley.

Perhaps one of the most famous products of the Black Country during its early industrial development was chain. Production is still carried out and Griffin Woodhouse Ltd., one of the few large chain manufacturers in the UK produces heavy stud link anchor chain in its Cradley Heath factory. Further north, in Walsall, Wheway Watson has a factory with the most modern plant in the world producing light chain in very high quality and quantity.

1,001 trades

This ability to make virtually anything the customer wants is, perhaps, the West Midlands' greatest asset. Birmingham has been described as 'the city of 1,001 trades'. The phrase could well be applied to the region. South amongst the fruit trees of Pershore W. H. Allen are producing marine gear boxes. In the west the quiet market town of Shrewsbury is the home of Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd. (Diesel Division) who have supplied industrial engines to the marine market for many years. At the other 'end' of the region, Rolls-Royce (1971) (Industrial and Marine Division) are bringing things down out of the clouds by putting gas turbines into industrial packages such as those on Shell's Leman Bank platform and in gas pipeline pumping stations. In the north-east Antox are making small booms to contain oil spills in harbours. In the very centre of Birmingham the jewellery quarter nestles close to some of the heaviest engineering plants in the country.

The Midlander, too, is an adaptable person. As one door closes he will try to open another. As the present recession developed and the flow of sub-contract work decreased, so sub-contracting and component supplying firms looked for other markets. One they turned to, of course, was the offshore 'industry'. Hence the raison d'etre for an increase in my activity.

Since the beginning of January 1975 more than 60 lectures have been given in the region on the help that the Department can give firms wanting to enter the market. Assistance has been given on a variety of cases, ranging from a £250,000 contract which was likely to be lost because of anti-British prejudice to the simple one mentioned earlier of the need to have a shackle tested. Each Regional Office of the Department of Industry, of course, has its Offshore Liaison Officer.

Typical of the attitude of the West Midlands, the Black Country is not backward looking and reliant on its traditional products. Near the chainmakers mentioned above lies R. T. Bullock Ltd., a firm making temporary furnaces for the heat treatment of large fabrications, such as parts of an offshore platform. Working on the logic that what keeps heat in should also keep it out, they are now offering their furnace wall components for fire retardant bulkhead construction.

As a nation we are often accused of being unable to capitalise on our inventions. The charge certainly cannot be levelled at Advanced Fireproofing Systems Ltd. of Smethwick. They learned that a weak point in fire retardant bulkheads occurs when they have to be pierced for pipes and cables. Using their experience of epoxy resins they have developed a fire retardant material which swells when heated and will block any gap that has to be left for the movement of the pipe. There have been exhaustive tests and the company has now been granted a certificate of approval by Lloyds Register of Shipping. So another hazard at sea has been removed.

The Black Country earned its name from the pollution caused by its furnaces. So it is by way of a pleasure to report that a firm in the south of the Black Country is offering virtually pollution-free gas flares. A BP research team looked at the problem of burning off unwanted gases. The problems were several, apart from pollution. On offshore structures in shallow waters a separate tower some distance away is feasible and economic; in deep waters it is difficult and costly. In Alaska it is undesirable to put a flare on the permafrost and watch it sink out of sight as it melts its own 'grave'. So BP came up with a flare working on the Coanda principle and licensed its manufacture to GKN Birwelco of Halesowen who now offer it in their range of flaring products.

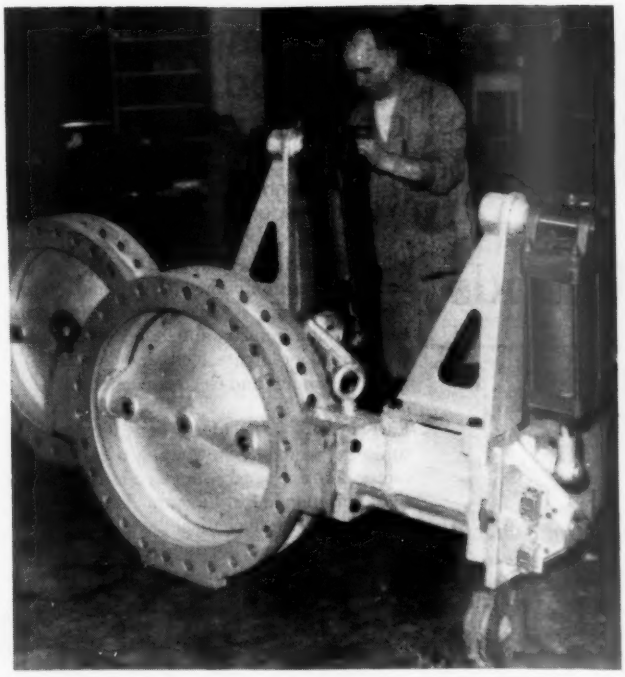
Research association

Spread throughout the West Midlands is the country's greatest concentration of foundries. Within the region, too, is one of the industry's main research associations, the British Cast Iron Research Association. Foundry cupola chimneys are a part of our industrial landscape and they belong to foundries whose products range from very heavy steel castings weighing several tonnes to feather-weight precision castings. Many of these castings, such as those made by F. H. Lloyd, find their way into the offshore industry as valves via the various valve-making firms in the region, Hymatic, Serck Audco, etc. We have many firms like Weston Hydraulics, making hydraulic cylinders, both small and large, for actuators for these valves.

In the region there is considerable fabrication and matching capacity capable of producing fabrications weighing over 100 tonnes. Transport limitations however preclude the manufacture of, for example, steel jackets (the 'towers' upon which some offshore platforms stand) but West Midlands fabricators like Alfred Allen and Son Ltd., and Danks of Netherton, have supplied nodes, process plant, diving compression chamber fabrications and pressure vessels.

Pressure vessels lead us to compressors. Within a mile of Birmingham City Centre Bellis and Morcom Manufacturing Ltd. make air compressors which are world famous. They are being used offshore both in the UK sector and abroad. One enterprising hirer of civil engineering contractors plant in the region, Charley Rentair of Atherstone, specialises in the larger compressed air plant and has recently been successful in obtaining contracts for pipeline dewatering. Richards and Wallington specialises in crane hire and they, too, report good business.

The National Exhibition Centre will soon get in on the act since in December it will house the 'Offshore International '76' conference



and exhibition. Already there is an impressive list of exhibitors and a number of foreign countries have taken considerable space for national stands. West Midlands firms will be well represented and visitors will be very welcome. We contend, quite justifiably, that if UK built equipment can satisfy the oilman in the North Sea then it should satisfy him in other parts of the world.

Two 700mm Daytona pneumatically operated boiler uptake valves for tanker inert gas systems being prepared at the Birmingham works of Daytona Butterfly Valve Co.

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The mood of the West Midlands

Ceramic tableware – optimism for the future

by Sir Arthur Bryan – chairman, Wedgwood.

The Wedgwood Group has now gained its fifth Queen's Award for outstanding export performance and we are optimistic that in the current financial year we shall achieve further progress in overseas sales.
Britain's ceramic tableware industry has long been a leading exporter. Sales to overseas countries in the first quarter of this year were 21.5 per cent up on the same period 1975 . . . £20.5 million compared with £16.9 million. There are firm signs this growth will continue.
For the Wedgwood Group the United States continues to be the major market though Europe has shown promising growth and there are good pointers to Canada, Australia and Japan becoming valuable trading areas. The floating £ has helped the industry remain competitive but rising costs and the resultant increase in prices cannot go on indefinitely. I would emphasise too that our industry must retain and develop its leadership in the field of design. It is essential – with sensible market research – to the future success of our business.

Wedgwood Croft oven-to-tableware.

Oil pollution – meeting the challenge

by R E Stadler – joint managing director, Antox (UK) Ltd.

Specialist knowledge in dealing with oil pollution is essential with the ever-increasing fight to protect the environment and the penalties for infringements.
Antox (UK) Ltd., has become deeply involved in pollution control and now markets a varied range of absorbents capable of dealing with every type of oil spill. Additionally the company is specialising in the manufacture of permanent retaining booms enabling oil to be contained in times of emergency.
There is still a great deal to be learned and developed in dealing with pollution and Antox are aiming to meet the challenge.
Export enquiries are coming in for containment booms and for these there is, obviously, a market abroad, especially in the Middle East. New products and ideas must be looked for continually.

Vehicle components – the future looks rosy

by Derek C Hathaway – chairman, Dartmouth Investments Ltd.

There is ample evidence to support an optimistic outlook regarding the business climate in the West Midlands in the immediate future. The 'awakening' of the motor industry and the shift in emphasis from 'saving' to consumer spending will give the economy a much needed boost.
It is our experience at Dartmouth Investments Ltd., that in our pressings and fabrication divisions, both new orders and call off schedules on mass produced components have increased.
Increased activity should mean increased profits. If interest rates and taxation can be minimised management will be encouraged to invest in stocks and more importantly, new plant and equipment, which in the long term will be of great benefit to the whole region.
The future certainly looks rosy for those who will grasp the opportunities as they are presented in the coming months.

Car components – renewed confidence

by John Given – managing director, Wilmot Breeden Ltd.

Wilmot Breeden Limited, the UK car components sector of the international Wilmot Breeden Group, is an integral part of the British motor industry and major supplier of bumpers, door latches, locks, handles, window winders and electro-mechanical components.
Early in 1974 we decided to seize the opportunity presented by the downturn in the motor industry to carry out a complete factory reorganisation in Birmingham. This was carried out with the help of the unions, the Birmingham City Planning Department and the Department of Industry; in particular substantial financial support from the D of I in the form of an interest subsidy was a necessary component of the plan.

John Given, managing director of Wilmot Breeden. The car component firm produces more than 100,000 car door catches a week.

Although recent events have caused us to modify our plans in some particulars and the time scale has lengthened, we have now become a leaner and more efficient operation and are broadening our base and looking outwards for additional ways of profitably employing our reorganised facilities.
I feel that we are by no means unique in taking advantage of the downturn in the motor industry to get ourselves into an economically stronger position. I am sure that the West Midlands generally is showing similar resilience in the face of adversity and is already looking to the future with renewed confidence.

Iron castings – increased profitability

by Brian J Cooke – managing director, Castings Ltd.

The company produces Blackheart and Pearlitic malleable iron castings for such engineering applications as car door hinges, hubs, hypoids, tractor pedals, agricultural components, scaffolding parts. There are three foundries at Brownhills and one at Walsall. The latter will close in April 1977 when a new foundry on the Brownhills site will be opened. The new foundry will cost in excess of £1.25 million. Equipment will include electric melting plant, automatic moulding and continuous heat treatment. Money to finance this capital expenditure will be obtained from a short term loan. Government assistance for the ferrous foundry industry will provide a useful addition.

The company should increase profitability when the new foundry opens, provided the Government allow wage increases to be recovered in full. The future for the company's products is good provided its customers obtain exports and maintain trouble free production. Direct exports, representing 17 per cent of sales, should increase as the company will remain competitive with modern plant and equipment.

Engineering and metal fabrication – an effective work force

by Eric Swainson – managing director, Imperial Metal Industries Ltd.

The basic strength of the West Midlands is an able and effective work force, offering skills and experience difficult to match elsewhere. Management also has remained responsive, resourceful and confident in its ability to meet new challenges.

These characteristics make the region a particularly attractive area for activities embracing a high level of new engineering or metallurgical technology, whether in the design of products or in the processes used for their manufacture.

IMI's Birmingham melting plant for highly reactive metals is one example which can be quoted of a local success story on which much of Britain's aircraft and aircraft engine business depends.

Less dramatic but equally important are the successes of the company and its neighbours in applying modern concepts of design and manufacture to our more everyday requirements. Whenever industrial progress needs management and men willing to build on an already proved record of skill and application, the West Midlands is a very good place to be.

Metal finishing – increased export performance

by Ben Tromans – deputy chairman and managing director, W Canning Ltd.

We are the largest European manufacturer of metal finishing plant and materials for the pre-finishing and electroplating of metals and plastics. With Government help for a new centralised distribution complex in Birmingham we can now go ahead with plans for an even greater concentration into European markets.

Market surveys have long established that our products are competitive, in price and in technical performance. The necessity to have readily available supporting stocks and the ability to give speedy delivery of materials and chemicals is essential, however.

The company planned a new 75,000 sq. ft warehouse which would satisfy all the criteria looked for. The financial implications, however, were of such magnitude that the project had to be shelved until financial aid to industry became available. The Department of Industry, recognising the company's contribution to so many trades and its established export performance and after thorough examination, promised an interest relief grant which is now enabling us to proceed with the £1.3 million distribution complex.

Electrical engineering – a strong competitor

by P L Lockton – commercial director and deputy managing director, Parsons Peebles Motors and Generators Ltd.

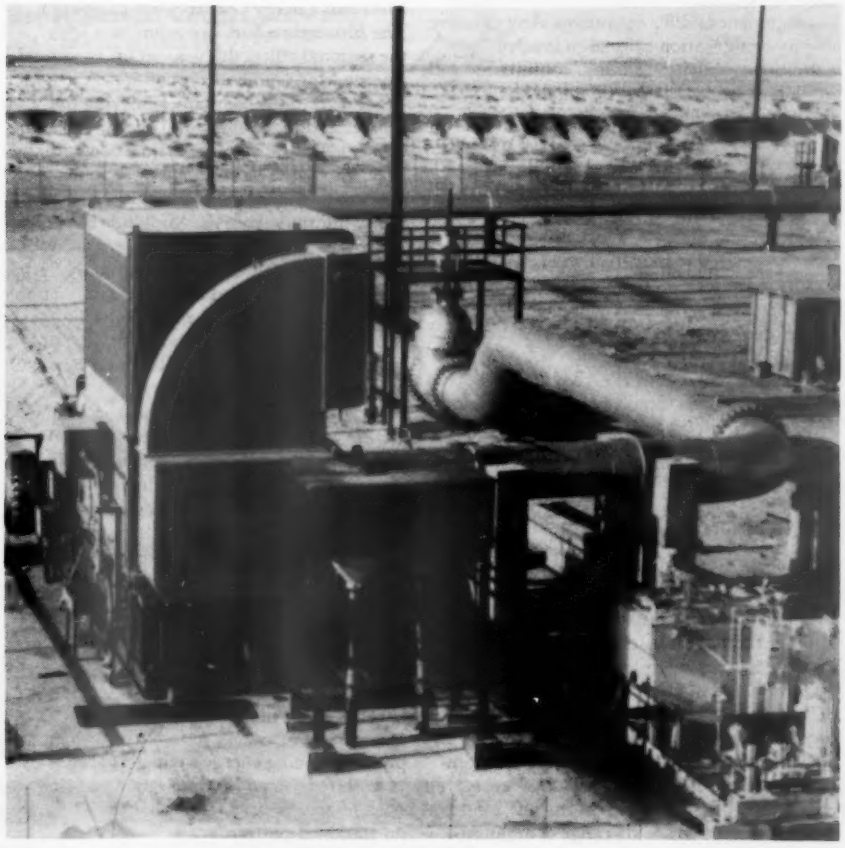
The sound reputation established over many years has enabled the electrical engineering industry in the West Midlands to develop its activities to good effect. Today, although a reduced operation because of factory closures and rationalisation, it has a strong foundation and is increasingly competitive in the world market place.

Like many other regional industries its skills have been handed down from generation to generation. Its apprenticeship schemes have an international reputation and of the engineers who have graduated by way of them many hold responsible positions abroad and are by way of ambassadors of the British electrical industry.

The training schools in the area are an example of the faith of the regional operation in the industry's future and its commitment to the community.

The electrical industry of the West Midlands will, in the years to come, continue to play its important part in the technical development of the world's natural resources in the way that it has done since it was first established.

A 10,000 hp, 13.2 kv closed air circuit air-cooled motor made by Parsons Peebles in Birmingham driving an oilfield booster pump in Saudi Arabia.



Switched on to 'Save It'

by Alfred Mendoza, regional officer, Department of Industry, with special responsibility for energy conservation.

The West Midlands has been quick to respond to the Government's call to 'Save It'. The most successful energy conservation activities have been in those companies and organisations where top management is enthusiastic, though success depends upon day-to-day energy conservation activities which involve every single employee.

The Gas Council was very quick off the mark setting up its unique School of Fuel Management at Solihull with courses for both senior management and for operatives. Any effective energy conservation campaign involves four activities: publicity, training, consultancy and implementation. It is gratifying to know that the nationalised fuel industries have all applied themselves in their different ways to all.

Experience shared

The Regional Office acts as a broker, bringing together energy managers so that experience can be shared. From this a portfolio is being built up of novel ideas on energy conservation. The experience of one company can then be used for the benefit of all.

We keep in touch with West Midlands industry through a committee of 13 energy managers, most of them from companies who are large energy users. This committee of energy managers is the first one to be set up by a regional office. The managers are all at a senior level in their companies. They have a great deal of experience and are willing to help smaller companies which are instituting energy conservation campaigns. In particular they can help with the setting up of an energy audit without which no energy campaign can be really successful.

In the education field the regional office is helping local academic institutions and other organisations in running one-day seminars for energy managers. The office is able to recommend speakers from the suppliers of fuel and energy and also from manufacturing industry. Talks are given to a wide range of organisations including Round Tables, Rotary Clubs and schools. There is keen interest in the subject.

We are liaising with the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in publicising the help and expertise which is available now throughout the region.

Energy management

To give further publicity to the West Midlands Energy Conservation campaign, The *Birmingham Post*, in conjunction with the regional office, this year set up an annual Energy Management competition. A trophy is awarded to the company achieving the greatest reduction in overall energy consumption, comparing the year in question with the previous year. The contest is open to firms big and small. The assessing panel includes senior representatives from the Midlands Electricity Board, the Central Electricity Generating Board, the British Gas Corporation, the Institution of Cost and Management Accountants, an oil company, the National Coal Board, the Council of Engineering Institutions and is chaired by the Regional Director of the Department of Industry.

In the first competition earlier this year the trophy was won by 3M United Kingdom Ltd., of Atherstone, with second and third places going to two of the Tube Investment companies. It is worth pointing out that the successful companies did not have any magic or off-beat methods of saving energy. They all followed the conventional pattern of top management involvement, commitment of the workforce and an energy audit, leading to conservation activities.

Energy managers

In the West Midlands as indeed elsewhere the problems facing energy managers vary according to the mix of fuels used and the size and nature of the organisation. There is no standard pattern.

One such energy manager is Gordon Stevens of the Clarke Chapman organisation who is based at Wolverhampton and is with the Company's Central Services. He is concerned with 25 manufacturing centres spread across the country. His duties are to:

Promote energy conservation throughout the company;
Monitor energy consumption;
Advise on energy-related projects and capital schemes;
Advise on trends and cost movements and to negotiate fuel/power supply contracts/agreements at company or regional level.

Nominated director

Each of the company's UK divisions has a nominated director specifically responsible for energy conservation in his division. Each division is recommended to appoint its own energy saving team.

Faced with an energy bill approaching £3 million, Gordon Stevens and his colleagues made energy savings worth £176,000 in 1975. This was achieved by good housekeeping, improved insulation and investment schemes optimising heating etc.

Another energy manager is Eric Fryer, a divisional director of Tube Investments, Steel Tube Division.

His company's fuel bill would have been £10 million. His efforts have helped to reduce it to £9 million. He too has concentrated on good housekeeping, has paid careful attention to insulation and has installed waste heat boilers. For example, better management of compressed air and associated supplies should save some £50,000 a year; zone controls and optimum start controls on space heating should save another £125,000 a year.

The energy audit in one West Midland company has been refined to such an extent that any manager wanting to put on overtime in any works area is told what it is going to cost to heat and to light that particular area.

Area authorities

Local authorities have not been idle in energy conservation and they too are finding considerable savings in energy and money.

The Dudley and Walsall Metropolitan Boroughs are both working to the ideal pattern of leadership from the top with involvement of everyone else.

They have carried out their audits and assessed, for example, the occupancy of schools outside normal teaching hours and altered the times at which heating is switched on and off.

Temperatures of hot water supplies and of swimming baths have been adjusted. Already both Boroughs have achieved big savings, with more to come.

As the regional office official with responsibility for conservation, I am finding a growing awareness of the need for energy conservation and am delighted that those who are active and have already achieved considerable savings are prepared to help others to do the same.

The initial missionary activities have been worthwhile since there is now widespread awareness, and most organisations are applying themselves to energy management. There are great financial rewards to be obtained.

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-Businessland U.K.

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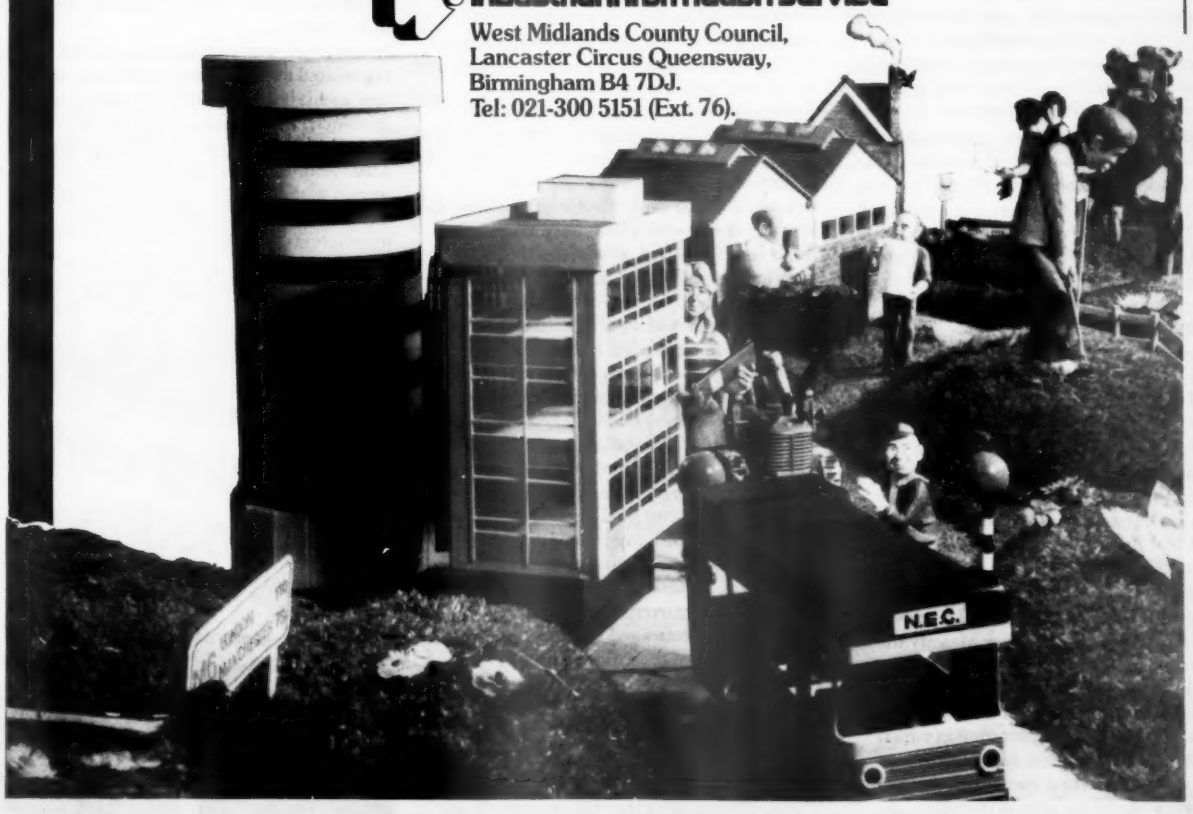

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Catalytic stimulus to the economy

by Robert C. Booth, chairman, National Exhibition Centre

The National Exhibition Centre is the first purpose-built exhibition complex to be built in Britain this century comparable in size with the Crystal Palace constructed in London's Hyde Park for the 1851 Great Exhibition.

Since 1945 other European nations have opened a whole series of successful venues for interational shows. Britain, however, delayed. The intensive pressure for land in and around the capital city, combined with the relative high cost of property and congestion of traffic systems made fruitless the search for a London site during the 1950's and 1960's.

In 1969 Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce made proposals to the British Government for a Midland Solution to the national need. Four hundred acres of land were available at the hub of Britain's emerging motorway network, alongside Birmingham Airport and astride the London-Birmingham electrified rail line.

The British Government approved the plan in principle early in 1970. The land was purchased within a few hours by the City Council and a local planning inquiry in 1971 demonstrated that the scheme blended with the surrounding environment and could be serviced by the proposed communications network. Detailed plans were assembled in 1972. Mr. Edward Heath, then Prime Minister, began the construction work on 16 February 1973. The building was completed 30 months later in November 1975 ready for the Royal Opening by Her Majesty the Queen on 2 February 1976.

It had been a six-year programme of activity with all stages completed on time. A vast, co-ordinated exercise of planning in which political and civic leaders, industrialists, design team, exhibition specialists, contractors and a large workforce joined together. The objective was to create, in a parkland setting befitting the heart of England, Europe's finest exhibition centre.

What the NEC will mean to the West Midlands

The Centre's bookings total more than 70 national and international shows for the opening two years, with further bookings in hand for 1977 and inquiries up to 1983. From the first big show, which opened on 1 February (The International Spring Fair, an amalgam of gifts and hardware – the largest Fair ever held in the UK under one roof), a busy programme of trade exhibitions representing such industries as plastics, heating and ventilation, packaging, machine tools, electronics and electrical engineering, toys, leisure goods, laundry equipment and many others, will bring an estimated two to three million visitors each year to the Midlands. Already 300,000 trade buyers have visited the 13 trade shows which have been staged at NEC since it opened, as well as an additional public attendance at open days and on special visits of 370,000 people. A total attendance figure of three quarters-of-a-million will have been exceeded by the time this article appears. Already, exhibition organisers are reporting increased interest in showing at NEC: indeed, every exhibition so far staged has been bigger than before and two major trade shows due later in the year have, to date, sold 70 per cent more space than in any previous exhibitions held elsewhere.

The level of inquiries received, too, has been boosted as well; according to exhibitors, a generally more serious type of inquiry is being experienced at current shows. All these factors have encouraged exhibitors to declare their intention of returning in future, while some organisers have boldly announced annual dates, in some cases as much as five years ahead.

Major impact

The development of the NEC is already enhancing the employment prospects in the Midlands. The major impact has been in providing several hundred permanent jobs at the Centre itself. These cover NEC's own administration staff and the large force of maintenance, car parking, cleaning and security. In addition there are all the jobs associated with the movement of people and goods such as financial, insurance and factoring services, freight and road haulage, business and travel agencies which will be created. Then there are the shop units within the Centre, and staff for firms who have hired space in the 160,000 sq. ft of warehousing to give them immediate access to the exhibition hall; and British Rail's new station (Birmingham International) specially built to serve the Centre, all creating more commercial and industrial jobs.

The influx of visitors – many of whom will come through Birmingham's international airport, already capable of dealing with 1.8 million visitors each year – will also increase the demand for other services such as hotels, restaurants and shops. Already the 130 hotels located within 20 miles of the Centre are being supplemented by a wide variety of new restaurants, bars, night-clubs and theatres. Birmingham alone now boasts some 28 night spots catering for all tastes and age groups.

Direct stimulus to exports

Closer contact with overseas buyers who will now come in larger numbers to see industrial trade exhibitions in Britain, will itself be a direct stimulus to the country's export business. That brings an opportunity to earn millions of pounds of invisible earnings from tourism, shopping, entertainment and other service industries. The NEC in providing employment and encouraging business, will act as a growth point for a range of activities which have in the past been under-represented in the region.

In addition, with exhibition organisers grouping related events in the much larger space now available, the target is to gain a far more genuinely international status for British-based events than has so far been possible. Thus Britain has the chance to move from the second to the first division in the European exhibition calendar, and to compete on the international circuit.

Birmingham International: for Inter-City service to Europe's newest expo centre.

Trade Information

British-Mexican Joint Commission communique

The following communique was issued in Mexico City on 2 July at the conclusion of the first meeting of the British-Mexican Joint Commission.

'The first meeting of the British-Mexican Joint Commission took place in Mexico City from 28 June-2 July 1976. The commission was set up under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in London in April as a result of earlier discussions in November of last year between the Mexican Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lic. Jose Campillo Sainz, and the British Secretary of State for Trade, Mr. Peter Shore, with the active encouragement of the President of the Republic of Mexico, Lic. Luis Echeverria Alvarez.

'The Mexican delegation in the Commission was led by Lic. Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Sub Secretario de Comercio, Secretaria de Industria y Comercio, and the British delegation by Mr. W. M. Knighton, Under-Secretary, Department of Trade.

'Both in formal sessions and in other meetings and visits, the two sides conducted a full exchange on possibilities for industrial and economic co-operation including the development of further joint ventures, and on other matters of mutual interest.

'The British delegation was given detailed briefing on a number of matters of interest to the Mexican government in connection with Mexican industrial development and as a result actions were agreed and further contacts will take place both in Britain and Mexico. The Commission also considered ways in which trade in both directions between the two countries might be stimulated and economic relations further improved; and in particular discussed the plans of the Mexican Government for achieving a growth of Mexican exports to Britain.

'Other subjects discussed included world economic prospects, financial matters and international economic relations.

'In order to maintain continuing contact, both sides agreed to establish standing committees of the Joint Commission, one in Mexico and the other in London.

'During their week in Mexico City, the British delegation visited agricultural development projects, industrial enterprises and the exhibition "In Mexico the best investment".

'It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Commission would take place in London in the second quarter of 1977.'

Anti-dumping investigation: Ophthalmic lenses from Brazil

The Department of Trade has accepted for full investigation an application under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 against the alleged dumping of white glass single-vision lenses for spectacles from Brazil.

A statement of the applicant's case will be made available to interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information contained in the statement in strict confidence. Any representations in connection with this application should be submitted in writing not later than 3 August 1976. Such representations, in summarised form and without attribution to the source, may be passed to the applicant for comment. Those making the representations should stipulate any particular matters which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Requests for copies of the statement together with an undertaking to treat in strict confidence, and any representations, should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 128, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries: General Division 01-215 3881.

Visa abolition agreement with Niger

Following the conclusion of a visa abolition agreement between the governments of Niger and the United Kingdom, nationals of either country will be able to travel to the country of the other party without first obtaining a visa. This agreement will come into force with effect from 21 July this year.

ECGD general purpose lines of credit

The table below lists lines of credit guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department under which there is capacity for further export business to be financed.

Departmental reference	Tel. extn. at ECGD HQ	Recipient	UK Bank	Purpose	Loan value £m	Minimum single contract value £000's	Final date for entering into contracts
LC 264	7303	Algeria	Lloyds Bank	UK capital goods and small projects	1	10	30 June 1976
LC 319	7345	Brazil	Schroder Wagg	Capital and semi-capital goods and associated services	5	10	30 September 1976
LC 499	7345	Brazil	Lloyds Bank International	Capital and semi-capital goods and associated services and project business	20	100	6 May 1978
LC 454	7345	Brazil	Lloyds Bank Ltd	Capital and semi-capital goods	2.5	10	30 September 1976
LC 602	7575	Bulgaria	Nat Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	2	5	31 March 1977
LC 612	7575	Bulgaria	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	1	5	30 April 1977
LC 434	7573	Cuba	Nat Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	7	10	31 July 1976
LC 417	7575	Czechoslovakia	Nat Westminster	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	4	5	31 January 1977

Departmental reference	Tel. extn. at ECGD HQ	Recipient	UK Bank	Purpose	Loan value £m	Minimum single contract value £000's	Final date for entering into contracts
LC 366	615	Denmark	Lazards	Ships' equipment	2	10	1 November 1976
LC 412	615	Denmark	Scandinavian Bank	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	0.5	10	12 September 1976
LC 594	615	Denmark	Barclays Bank International	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	1	10	30 November 1976
LC 608	615	Denmark	Barclays Bank International	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	0.5	10	30 November 1976
LC 684	7340	Finland	S. G. Warburg	Plant, equipment and associated services	1	10	10 October 1977
LC 672	615	France	Nat Westminster	UK capital plant and equipment and associated services	1	10	15 March 1977
LC 614	615	France	Midland Bank	Capital goods and associated services	2	10	31 December 1976
LC 532	615	France	Midland Bank	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	28 February 1977
LC 618	615	German Federal Republic	Lloyds Bank	UK plant and equipment and associated UK services	2	10	30 November 1976
LC 588	7575	Hungary	Morgan Grenfell	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	3	5	31 March 1977
LC 551	286	Costa Rica	Lloyds Bank	Capital and semi-capital goods and services	2	10	30 April 1977
LC 584	7171	Indonesia	Lloyds Bank	Constructional work equipment and land reclamation machinery, capital equipment	20	200	15 May 1977
LC 333	615	Irish Republic	Williams and Glyn's	UK plant and equipment and associated services	1.5	10	30 September 1976
LC 386	615	Irish Republic	Rothschilds	UK plant and equipment and associated UK services	2	10	31 March 1977
LC 440	615	Irish Republic	Nat Westminster	UK plant and equipment and associated services	2.5	10	30 October 1976
LC 511	615	Irish Republic	Nat Westminster	UK plant and equipment and associated UK services	1	10	28 February 1977
LC 545	615	Irish Republic	Hill Samuel	UK capital plant and equipment	2-3	10	30 November 1976
LC 540	615	Israel	Rothschilds	UK capital goods and associated UK services	5	10	31 December 1976
LC 441	615	Israel	Rothschilds	Capital goods and associated services	3	10	31 August 1976
LC 664	615	Israel	Rothschilds	Uk capital plant and equipment and associated UK services	5	10	22 April 1977
LC 443	615	Israel	Warburgs	UK capital goods and associated services	3	10	21 September 1976
LC 449	615	Israel	Charterhouse Japhat	Capital goods and associated services	3	10	31 July 1976
LC 468	615	Israel	Rothschilds	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	30 September 1976
LC 577	615	Israel	Rothschilds	UK capital goods and associated services	1	10	30 September 1976
LC 471	441	Korea South	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	4	50	30 June 1976
LC 652	441	Korea South	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	4	10	31 March 1977
LC 502	7171	New Zealand	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods	2	10	Extension under consideration
LC 541	7171	New Zealand	Williams and Glyn's	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	0.5	10	31 December 1976
LC 332	7367	Peru	Schroder Wagg	Capital equipment and small projects	1.5	10	7 May 1976 (Extension under consideration)
LC 375	7367	Peru	Lazard Bros.	Capital plant and equipment	2.5	40	15 January 1976
LC 489	7367	Peru	Schroder Wagg	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	1.5	40	25 May 1976 (Extension under consideration)
LC 406	698	Portugal	Midland Bank	Capital plant and equipment	3	25	31 October 1976
LC 620	698	Portugal	Rothschilds	Capital plant and equipment	5	10	31 January 1977
LC 505	7575	Romania	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	2	5	30 June 1977
LC 510	7575	Romania	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	3	5	30 May 1977
LC 397	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	Capital goods and related services for the electric supply undertaking operated by ESCOM	5	100	Extension under consideration
LC 495	7152	South Africa	Schroder Wagg	Capital goods and associated services	10	15	28 February 1977
LC 518	7152	South Africa	Schroder Wagg	Heavy construction equipment including bulldozers, batching plants and pavers	0.5	25	20 August 1976
LC 539	7173	South Africa	Man Hanover Export Finance	UK plant and equipment and related services	1	25	20 October 1976
LC 659	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	Railway Equipment	30	100	1 October 1977
LC 550	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	Railway Equipment	10	100	1 September 1976
LC 382	698	Spain	Hill Samuel	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	30 September 1976
LC 576	698	Spain	Kleinwort Benson Ltd.	Plant and equipment	1	100	31 August 1977
LC 421	7335	Spain	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	31 October 1976
LC 444	698	Spain	Lloyds Bank	Capital plant and equipment	5	10	31 December 1976
LC 558	698	Spain	Tozer Standard and Chartered Ltd.	Capital plant and equipment	1	10	17 January 1977
LC 307	7340	Sweden	Midland Bank	Capital plant and equipment	1	100	20 June 1976
LC 589	7340	Sweden	Scandinavian Bank	Plant, equipment and associated services	1	10	31 October 1977
LC 624	7340	Sweden	Lloyds Bank	Capital plant and equipment	2	10	31 July 1977
LC 645	7573	USSR	Morgan Grenfell	Capital goods and associated services	10	50	31 October 1977
LC 646	7573	USSR	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	10	50	31 October 1977
LC 523	7575	Yugoslavia	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	8	10	30 April 1977
LC 563	7575	Yugoslavia	Lloyds Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	30 September 1976
LC 208	7152	Zambia	Tozer standard and Chartered Bank	Capital goods and services for development of open-cast and underground mining (Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd.) (Supplemental)	2.4	50	31 December 1976
LC 574	7467	Zambia	Morgan Grenfell	Roan Consolidated Mines	3	5	27 February 1977

Requests for further information on any of these lines of credit should be made to the bank concerned or to Export Credits Guarantee Department, PO Box 272, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (tel. 01-606 6699 extensions as listed in the second column).

Exporters, when negotiating business which might be financed under one of the above lines of credit, should ensure that their contract price contains sufficient margin to cover the cost of any premium payable. These details can be obtained from the bank concerned.

10,000 exporters must be right.

More, and more profitable, exports will help your company. Especially in times of slack demand at home.

But non-payment won't do you any good at all.

This is why 10,000 prudent British exporters insure with ECGD. Against non-payment by the overseas buyer and other financial risks.

ECGD can take over most of your payment worries. And may help you to raise export finance.

Join the prudent 10,000. Contact ECGD now.

ECGD

INSURANCE FOR BRITISH EXPORTERS

ACTION NOW: Contact the Information Officer, Export Credits Guarantee Department, quoting reference TIA, at Glasgow, Belfast, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Bristol, London West End, Croydon or Tottenham Regional Offices or Brian Richardson, Information Section TIA, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL. (Tel: 01-606 6699 ext 617).

ENCIRCLE TI 117 ON PAGE 213 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Tariff and Trade Notices

Finland

Duty-free facilities. Legislation proposing an amendment to paragraph 72 of the customs law is being considered by the Finnish Parliament. The unofficial translation of the amendment is as follows:

> Any goods can be placed in a free zone, a free port or a bonded store but the Board of Customs has the authority to forbid under certain circumstances the storing of such goods, as are not apt to promote exports, other productional activities, transportation of transit goods or imports which are considered vital, or which (goods) hamper domestic prodution.

The proposal is linked to other legislation before the Finnish Parliament involving changes in the method of collection of turnover tax and it is unlikely to be passed before the summer recess. No further information is available but further details will be published if the measures are implemented. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Belgium

Foodstuffs regulations. The *Moniteur Belge* 124, 26 June 1976, published a decree dated 24 May 1976 concerning powders and other compound products intended for the preparation of puddings and similar commodities. The decree entered into force on 1 July 1976. An English translation is being prepared. Copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Italy

Hair dyes. The *Gazzetta Ufficiale* of 25 June 1976, published a ministerial decree dated 18 June 1976 prohibiting the use in hair dyes of colouring matters possessing mutogenic power. The decree gives details of the substances which are forbidden in the preparation of hair dyes, labelling requirements and permits a period of 18 months from 25 June 1976 for those substances mentioned in the decree to be withdrawn from retail sale.

Copies of the decree, in Italian, are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Registration of eye hygiene products. A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 20 February 1976 (page 520), referred to a ministerial decree 19 January 1976 on the obligation to register all eye hygiene products with the Italian Ministry of Health.

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale* of 19 June 1976 published a ministerial decree 25 May 1976, modifying the earlier regulation.

The amendment states that solutions for contact lenses must contain disinfectant, and as such must be registered. Solutions must be sterile, and must not be in plastic containers.

The relevant documents requesting registration must be presented not later than 90 days from the date of publication of the present decree. Those products complying with ministerial decree of 19 January, and already on the market, can still be sold.

Copies of the decree, in Italian, are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Manufacture and sale of decaffeinated coffee. A ministerial decree 20 May 1976 in the Italian *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, 11 June 1976, permits the manufacture and sale of decaffeinated coffee. The decree covers the solvents which can be used and the amounts of caffeine allowed in raw, roasted and soluble extracts (dessicated or freeze dried) of coffee. In addition to the labelling requirements set down in law 470/73, the words 'decaffeinated coffee' must be shown on the label with the specification 'caffeine not more than 10 per cent' for raw or roasted coffee and 'caffeine not more than 30 per cent' for coffee extracts, dessicated or freeze dried. The maximum limits of caffeine permitted in decaffeinated coffee will come into force 1 January 1977. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Portugal

Drawback of import duty. Portuguese *Diario Da Republica* 116, 18 May 1976, published order 307/76, authorising the import under drawback of sheepskins, raw wool, wool products and certain synthetic fibres. Finished articles must be exported within two years of the raw materials being imported. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Spain

Capital goods – additions, extensions and amended descriptions. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 28 April 1976, announced the following additions, extensions of validity and modifications to the Capital Goods List of the Spanish Customs Tariff, imported at a concessional rate of 5 per cent import duty, subject to the importer making application to the Spanish Ministry of Commerce:

Tariff no.	Description	Valid until
ADDITIONS		
84.37-D	Automatic looms for making fishing nets	16.3.78
84.45-C-6	Finishing machines for non-plane surfaces, weighing more than 2,500kg (lapping, burnishing and rolling machines)	12.12.77
84.45-C-6	Bridge grinders with rotary work table and two heads (horizontal and vertical) for the automatic grinding of circular parts with a diameter exceeding 1,500mm, of a weight exceeding 20 tonnes	27.4.78
84.45-C-6	Automatic grinders for circular drill bits, of a weight exceeding 1,500kg	27.4.78
84.45-C-8-b	Automatic machinery for cutting ring gear teeth of more than 1,500mm in diameter, of weight exceeding 20 tonnes	27.4.78
84.45-C-8-a	Hypoid conical gear cutting machines	12.12.77

Tariff no.	Description	Valid until
84.45-C-9	Automatic horizontal toggle presses for backward extrusion of non-ferrous metals	27.4.78
84.45-C-9	Automatic presses with bottom drive by means of a ball-crank and moving frame, for the production of metal parts by stamping or indirect extrusion	12.12.77
84.45-C-10	Special machinery for the manufacture of motor car silencers from sheet of a thickness exceeding 1.2mm, machines for forming tubes, bodies or casings with weldless seams, machines for preparing the two ends of the silencer simultaneously and fitting end-plates with weldless seams	27.4.78
84.46-B-2	Automatic machines, with more than two shafts for smoothing and polishing tiles with automatic control of the grinder pressure	27.4.77
84.56-E	Automatic circular presses with five stations, for the production of terrazzo flooring tiles, and with provision for vibration and precompression	27.4.78
84.59-K	Automatic machines for assembling part of a chassis or complete chassis, for tape cassettes, with six or more stations on a circular transfer system, whether or not with provision for feed and removal	27.4.78
84.59-K	Automatic machines for moulding hollow bodies of plastic materials, through repeated operations of injection and blowing in different moulds	27.4.78
85.11-B-1-b	Double electrode submerged arc welding machines for butt-welding unbevelled sheets of a thickness exceeding 20mm, using a current exceeding 1,000 amperes at more than 50 volts	27.4.78
85.11-B-1-b	Automatic submerged arc welding machines for welding vanes to tubes or for welding tubes together to form panels for steam boilers	27.4.78
85.15-B-2-a	Flying spot telecines	10.6.77
87.01-C	Tractor units specially designed for loading and unloading cargoes on semi-trailers carried on ferries, having a rising fifth wheel with a lifting capacity of more than 18 tonnes, a single non-suspended rear axle and a torque converter	27.4.78
90.28-C-7	Apparatus for automatically checking electric parameters of active or passive electronic components or printed circuits whether or not incorporating an automatic counter	17.3.78
90.28-C-7	Numerical control equipment	17.3.78
90.28-C-7	Special hydraulic and electrical apparatus for static and dynamic testing of shock absorbers for vehicles	27.4.78
ADDITIONS (RETROSPECTIVE)		
87.03-C	Earth drilling equipment mounted on special vehicles having two or more differentials and three or more hydraulic support and stabilisation devices, of a gross running weight in excess of 20,000kg	12.12.77
90.20-A-2	X-ray equipment for use in sectional radiography, together with equipment for the processing, visual presentation, recording and reproduction of data, and a cooling system	15.11.77
EXTENSIONS		
84.16-A 84.59-K	Calendering machines for rolling semi-plastic materials into a continuous roll less than 1mm thick, by means of two rollers in the same inclined plane rotating at different speeds, progressively and individually adjustable, whether or not including heating, collection and cooling systems	14.6.78
84.22-1 84.31-C-2 84.56-E 84.59-K 84.19-E 90.28-C-K	Automatic machines for making slabs or tubes of asbestos cement or of asbestos with other binders or fillers: machines for making asbestos board, longitudinal and transverse cutters together with their feed belts, combined corrugating and stacking machines combined mould-removing and unstacking machines, tube-rolling machines, machines for removing chucks and for handling chucks or tubes, whether or not with hydraulics and control systems	20.5.77
84.33-L	Continuous automatic rotary machinery for making envelope folders from stamped paper shapes, by printing, glueing, folding, drying and delivering counted batches in one continuous operation	16.3.78
84.33-L	Automatic folding and glueing machinery for making bag valves from tubular plastic film on reels, having stations for cutting, folding the bag mouths and ends, glueing the valves and the bag ends, and final folding	16.3.78
84.45-C-1-e-2	Special automatic machines for machining the heads (face, circumference, bevel and seat) or the fixing slots in the stems of valves for heat engines	16.3.78
84.45-C-6	Special automatic machines for cutting the stems of engine valves by means of a grinding wheel, and automatic machines for grinding the end of the valve stems	16.3.78
84.45-C-6	Contour grinding machines operating by copying from a template by means of a pantograph or an articulated parallelogram	20.5.78
84.50	Gas engines specially designed for depositing hard materials on the valve seats of heat engines	16.3.78
87.01-A-2 87.01-C	Road tractors of more than 350 hp with three differentials for towing extra-heavy loads	2.5.77
90.17-A	Unitary or modular equipment for the simultaneous reception and indication of different physiological parameters, having one or more systems of recording and visual presentation	17.3.78
EXTENSION WITH AMENDED DESCRIPTION		
84.45-C-16	Automatic or semi-automatic machines for forming contacts, from metallic thread or wire, on springs or spring strips for selectors or telephone relays, which carry out as a minimum the operations of positioning, cutting, riveting or soldering and bending to shape	15.7.78

Tariff no.	Description	Valid until
AMENDED DESCRIPTIONS		
84.30	Machines for the preparation of fish: head-removing machines, gutting machines, or combined head-removing and gutting machines, filleting machines or combined head-removing and filleting machines, multi-cutters and slicers for producing slices, pieces or steaks, cod-cutting machines, skinning machines, bone-removing machines, machines for cutting and packing portions and for grading fish and shell-fish according to size	30.7.78
84.23-B	Levellers, self-propelled skimmers, towed skimmers with motor-driven continuous loading attachment, scarifiers and pile-drivers	17.3.78

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 25 June 1976, published royal decree 1464/1976 of 7 June, extending the appendix list of capital goods list corresponding to BN 87.03-C-1 and BN84.45-C-9, imported at a concessional rate of 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

Tariff no.	Description	Expiry date
ADDITION		
87.03-C-1	Lattice cranes on special self-propelled chassis, with a lifting capacity of 70 tonnes or more and a reach of more than 3.5m; telescopic jib cranes on special self-propelled chassis, with a lifting capacity of 90 tonnes or more and a reach of more than 3.5m	29.5.77
EXTENSION		
84.45-C-9	Automatic modular machines for sequential stamping of rotor and stator plates, with one or more pressing modules and a central transfer and storage facility	17.7.78

Inquiries: should be addressed to OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Yugoslavia

Global foreign exchange quotas 1976. Yugoslav *Official Gazette* 21, 20 May 1976, item 310, contains a decision establishing global foreign exchange quotas for imports of goods for personal use during 1976. *Official Gazette* 18, 7 May 1976, item 265, contains a decision establishing additional global foreign exchange quotas for allocation to enterprises in the construction and coal mining sectors during 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Electricity imports. During 1976, imports of electricity (tariff heading 27.17) are:
(a) subject to special tax of 5 per cent; and (b) exempted from import duty. (Yugoslav *Official Gazette* 17, 30 April 1976, items 248 and 249 refer). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Printing industry products: duty exemptions. Imports of certain printing industry products classified under Yugoslav tariff headings 49.01/5, 49.02, 49.03, 49.04, 49.05, 49.06 and 49.11/3a are exempt from customs duty from 15 May 1976 (Yugoslav *Official Gazette* 20, 14 May 1976, item 293). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Electronic calculating machines. Yugoslav *Official Gazette* 18/1976 of 7 May 1976, Item 274, amends legislation published in *Official Gazette* 54/1975 of 14 November 1975, Item 737, whereby electronic calculating machines represented by Yugoslav tariff numbers ex 84.53/1, ex 84.53/2, ex 84.53/3 can be imported duty free as long as they form part of the programme of automisation funded by foreign exchange secured via specific federal legislation*. The effect is to add control units and disc units (ex 84.53/3) and magnetic discs (ex 92.12/3) to items listed in the original legislation.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

* Reported in *Trade and Industry* of 9 January 1976.

Greece

Temporary importation. Further to the announcement in *Trade and Industry* of 21 November 1975 we have now been informed that the ATA System for the temporary importation of goods into Greece came into operation on 1 July 1976.

Carnets can now be obtained from the London Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry and other authorised chambers of commerce.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Import duties. According to the Greek press of 28 May 1976 the importation into Greece of unroasted coffee (09.01A) has become free of import duty since 25 May 1976.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 439.

Israel

Import duty amendments. The Israeli authorities have announced the following amended rates of import duty:

BN no.	Description	Rate of duty		
			EEC	
		MFN	6	3
20.02				
4000	Tomatoes, including juice and puree:			
4010	In powder	10%	10%	10%
4090	Other	17.5% bnlt 0.20 per gross kg	17.5% bnlt 0.20 per gross kg	17.5% bnlt 0.20 per gross kg
20.07				
1000	Tomato			
1010	In powder	10%	10%	10%
1090	Other	17.5% bnlt 0.20 per gross kg	17.5% bnlt 0.20 per gross kg	17.5% bnlt 0.20 per gross kg
30.04				
1000	Gauze bandages and pads	20%	20%	20%
70.20				
1010	Woven glass fibre fabrics of the kind used for the production of reinforced plastics	exempt	exempt	exempt
73.32				
1000	Screws for wood; screws for tin sheets; Allen screws	55% bnlt 10.0 per kg	46.7%	55%
85.08				
9900	Other			
9930	Following parts of sparking plugs: insulation elements inlaid with electrodes and screw type conductors; electrodes; metal screw type conductors	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%
9990	Other	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%
85.19				
6000	Contacts made of silver, gold, platinum or another metal in the platinum group, and contacts covered with one or more of these metals, provided the contacts are imported without additional parts	exempt	exempt	exempt
90.17				
6000	Medical spatulae	25%	25%	25%

Notes:
bnlt = but not less than.
6 = Original members of EEC.
3 = New members of EEC.
Units in import duty column: Israeli pounds.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Introduction of value added tax. A value added tax of 8 per cent was introduced by Israel on 1 July 1976. Most goods, with the exception of certain fruits and vegetables listed below, are subject to the tax. On imported goods the tax is levied on the duty paid value plus any other taxes and charges.

The following vegetables are zero rated for VAT:

Watermelon	Celery	Pepper
Asparagus	Turnip	Paprika
Peas	Arum	Beans
Okra	Lima beans	Radish
Sweet potatoes	Lubya	Small radish
Onion	Melon	Kohlrabi
Carrot	Swiss chard	Marrow
Red pepper	Cucumber	Rhubarb
Horseradish	Beetroot	Garlic
Wood sorrel	Celery stalks	Thistle
Lettuce	Tomato	Kidney beans
Eggplant	Asphodel	Strawberry
Artichoke	Chicory	Maize
Cynara artichoke	Parsley	Potatoes
Cabbage	Mushrooms	Spinach
Cauliflower		

The following fruits are zero rated for VAT:

Avocado	Guave	Surinam cherry
Pear	Cherry	Papaya
Blackberry	Olive	Citrus fruit, including
Anona	Quince	all species and kinds
Pineapple	Apricot	Kumquat
Persimmon	Mango	Carambola
Peach	Macadamia	Pomegrenade
Actinidia	Grapes	Plum
Passiflora	Fig	Eriobotrya japonica
Almond	Date	Mulberry
Banana	Sellouiana	Apple

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Standard for portable kerosene heating stoves. The following Israeli Standard has now been declared official and compliance with it will be compulsory 60 days from 22 June 1976.

IS 377 – Portable kerosene heating stoves.

The Standard Institution of Israel issue an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from the British Standards Institution Library, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000, telex 266933).

British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HB1 1BR (tel. 0442 3111, telex 82424).

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461).

Sierra Leone

Customs tariff changes. Public Notice No. 20 published in the *Sierra Leone Gazette* of 29 June 1976 amends as from this date Part A of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff.

PUBLIC NOTICE No. 20
The following tariff item numbers are amended in Part A of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff:
03.01, 04.01, 04.02, 07.02/03, 07.04, 09.01, 09.04/10, 17.01, 17.02/03, 17.05, 19.03, 19.04, 19.07/08, 20.01/02, 20.03, 20.05, 20.06, 20.07, 21.01/02, 21.03, 21.04, 22.01/02, 22.03, 42.03, 44.23, 44.24, 55.05/06, 55.07/09, 56.07, 58.01/03, 58.04, 64.01/04, 65.01/02, 65.03/07, 67.03/04, 67.05, 68.04/05, 70.15, 70.19, 71.16, 73.36, 83.10, 84.52, 84.53, 85.12, 85.14, 89.01, 94.01/03, 94.04, 98.10, 98.11

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/471/472/462.

The Gambia

Customs tariff. Customs Tariff Amendment No. 26 published in *The Gambia Gazette* of 28 May 1976 amends, with effect from that date, the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff (Import Duties) as follows:

Tariff no.	Tariff description	Rate of duty
85.15	A. Television receivers (whether or not combined with radio or gramophone); radio-gramophones	50%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471.

Sudan

Customs duty – amendments. The Sudanese authorities have announced several changes in import duties for the financial year starting 1 July 1976. These are as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	New import duty
22.03	Beer made from malt	215 m/ms per litre
22.04	Grape must, in fermentation or with fermentation arrested otherwise than by the addition of alcohol:	
	A Containing alcohol not exceeding 23% of their volume	550% with a minimum duty of 600 m/ms per litre of liquid
	B Containing alcohol exceeding 23% of their volume	553% plus £s3,300 m/ms per litre of alcohol in excess of 23%
22.05	Wine of fresh grapes: grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol:	
	A Champagne and sparkling wines	700%
	B Other:	
	1 Containing alcohol not exceeding 23% of their volume	550% with a minimum duty of 600 m/ms per LL
	2 Containing alcohol exceeding 23% of their volume	553% plus £s3.300 m/ms per litre of alcohol in excess of 23%
22.06	Vermouths, and other wines of fresh grapes flavoured with aromatic extracts:	
	A Containing alcohol not exceeding 23% of their volume	550% with a minimum duty of 600 m/ms per litre of liquid
	B Containing alcohol exceeding 23% of their volume	553% plus £s3.300 m/ms per litre of alcohol in excess of 23%
22.09	Spirits (other than those of heading no. 22.08): liqueurs and other spirituous beverages; compound alcoholic preparations (known as 'concentrated extracts') for the manufacture of beverages:	
	A Liqueurs and other spirituous beverages:	
	1 Containing alcohol not exceeding 50% of their volume	£s6.665 per LL
	2 Containing alcohol exceeding 50% of their volume	£s12.665 m/ms per litre of alcohol
67.04	Wigs, false beards, hair pads, curls, switches and the like, of human or animal hair or of textiles; other articles of human hair (including hair nets)	100%
87.02	Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, goods or materials (including sports motor vehicles, other than those of heading no. 87.09)	
	B 1 Motor vehicles for transport of goods	50%

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 465/7062.

South Africa

Regulations relating to canned fruit. Notice no. R1079 in South African *Government Gazette*, no. 5169 published on 25 June 1976, details new regulations relating to the grading, packing and marking of canned fruit intended for sale in the Republic.

Copies of the above Regulations are available (on loan only). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 25 June 1976:

R.1074 BN 04.04. Tariff heading no. 04.04 is restated and the rates of duty are amended.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.1075 Item 311.40. BN 58.05. The provision for a rebate of duty on webbing, for use by the clothing industry, is withdrawn.

R.1076 Item 307.04. BN 39.02. The provision for a rebate of duty on multilayer film, sheet or strip of styrene polymers and copolymers, for the manufacture of plastic goods of plate, sheet, strip or film, is withdrawn.

REBATES, REFUNDS OF EXCISE DUTY

R.1077 Item 605.04.10. Provision is made for a refund of the excise duty on plain spirits in the extraction of absolutes for export.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List No. 21/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 9 July 1976, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

1 Knives and cutting blades mainly for use with non-portable and portable industrial machines classifiable under tariff subheadings 82.06.20 and 82.06.30, and

2 Loudspeakers, not incorporated or housed in cabinets or other articles, classifiable under tariff subheading 85.14.25.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* 18 June 1976.

R.1016 BN 84.10. The effect of this notice is that the rate of duty on centrifugal pumps, with bodies of cast iron and a bore of a diameter not exceeding 200mm, fitted with submersible motors, and parts of such pumps is reduced from 20 per cent to free.

R.1017 BN 39.03. Tariff heading 39.03 is restated.

R.1018 BN 29.13 and 55.09:

1 The rate of duty on acetone (propanone) is amended from 20 per cent or 35c/kg less 80 per cent of the fob price to 20 per cent or 26c/kg less 80 per cent of the fob price.

2 Discharge print fabrics of cotton presently classified under subheading no. 55.09.55.30 are now excluded from the said subheading (which is being renumbered to subheading no. 55.09.55.25) and the effect thereof is that the rate of duty on these fabrics is reduced from 25 per cent or 100c/m² less 75 per cent of the fob price to 20 per cent or 70c/m² less 80 per cent of the fob price.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.1019 Item 304.09, 305.01, 306.08, 307.04, 307.05, 307.06, 307.09, 310.01, 310.08, 312.01, 315.10 and 318.04. BN 39.03:

1 Items 304.09, 306.08, 307.04 and 307.05 are amended to the extent of rebate – full duty.

2 The provisions for a rebate of duty on various chemical derivatives of cellulose for the manufacture of:
- a plastic adhesives
- b can sealing and bottle cap lining preparations
- c pulp, paper and paperboard
- d cutlery, spoons and forks, and
- e prepared sound and similar recording media

are withdrawn.

3 The provision for a rebate of duty on methylcellulose for use as a flocculant in the extraction of uranium, is withdrawn.

4 The provision for a rebate of duty on collodion for use by the printing, publishing and bookbinding industry, is withdrawn.

5 The provision for rebate of duty on bonded fibre fabrics and similar bonded yarn fabrics, coated or covered with artificial plastic material (excluding vinyl chloride polymers or copolymers), is extended so that such fabrics can be used for any purpose except as linings in the manufacture of footwear.

R.1020 Item 311.04, 311.40, 312.01. BN 58.07. The provisions for a rebate of duty on ornamental textile trimmings used in textile knitting and the clothing industry and on cords, pompons and other trimmings used in the footwear industry, are withdrawn.

GENERAL REBATES

R.1021 Item 460.11. BN 59.03. The provision for a rebate of duty on bonded fibre fabrics and similar bonded yarn fabrics, or a kind commonly used for interlinings, whether or not impregnated or coated, is withdrawn.

R.1031 Item 460.04. BN 24.01. Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on unmanufactured Oriental tobacco, imported not later than 24 June 1977 in such quantities as the Secretary for Agricultural Economics and Marketing may allow by specific permit.

DRAWBACKS AND REFUNDS OF CUSTOMS DUTY

R.1022 Item 517.05. BN 87.07. Provision is made for a drawback of the full duty on transmission units, including axle ends, used in the manufacture of fork lift trucks for export.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Soft drinks. Notice R1087 published in the South African *Government Gazette* 5171, 25 June 1976, proposes to amend the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act 1972 by revising the regulation on the use of caffeine in soft drinks. Comments on the proposal should reach the Secretary for Health, Private Bag X88, Pretoria, by 24 September 1976. Copies of the notice are available. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Malaysia

Customs duty amendments. The Malaysian Government has passed:

1 The Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 12) Order 1976 which amends the First Schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1968 so that it now reads as follows:

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quantity	Federation Common Tariff	West Malaysia	Sabah	Sarawak
85.03	Primary cells and primary batteries:					
100	For hearing aids					
800	For other purposes	No.	Nil	5 cts per cell	5 cts per cell	5 cts per cell

2 The Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 13) Order 1976 which amends the First and Second Schedules to the Customs Duties Order 1968 so that it now reads as follows:

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quantity	Federation Common Tariff
68.02	Worked monumental or building stone:		
100	Blocks, slabs or sheets of marble	Ton	$200 per cwt 20%

Import control. The Malaysian Government has passsed the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 14) Order 1976 which amends the Second and Fifth Schedules to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1973:

1 By deleting the heading no. 73.20.200 – tubes and pipe fittings of iron or steel other than cast iron, of less than 6 in in internal diameter and all the particulars that follow;
2 By inserting in the appropriate place the heading number and particulars that follow:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Country
73.23 910	Steel drums	All countries

Note:
A The second schedule lists those goods prohibited from entry into West Malaysia without an import licence.
B The fifth schedule lists those goods prohibited from entry into Penang without an import licence.

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Japan

Standard for domestic cooling/heating units. The Japan Standard Association recently published JIS A-4412 (1976) for Domestic Cooling/Heating Units.

Copies of the above standard are expected to be available later from British Standards Institution Library at 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS (tel. 01-629 9000). British exporters requiring technical advice should contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ (tel. 0442 2311).

No further information is available from OTAR.

New Zealand

Customs tariff preferences: developing countries. The New Zealand Government has issued the Customs Tariff (Generalised System of Preferences) Amendment Order 1976 which came into force on 1 July 1976. The purpose of the order is to give a more comprehensive scheme of preferential duties to developing countries and this has resulted in a large number of changes in the 'DC' rates of duty.

These new rates are available in OTAR – please quote BTN no. and give details of commodity if seeking further information. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Canada

Hazardous Products Act – carpets and rugs. The Canadian Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has issued details of the changes in flammability standards for carpets, rugs and mats. These changes took effect on 1 July 1976. Further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

Hazardous Products Act – asbestos. The Canadian Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs announced on 15 June the addition of playthings which may release asbestos and of modelling materials containing asbestos to the Schedule of prohibited products under the Hazardous Products Act. The ban prohibits the importation, advertising and sale of such products. Further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

United States

Escape clause investigation into plant hangers. The US International Trade Commission has instituted an investigation under Section 201(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 into imports into the USA of plant hangers, of wood; of vegetable fibres, of wool, or of man-made fibres; of iron or steel or of copper; or of leather or of shell. Copies of the notice are available. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Chloroform in drugs and cosmetics. The *Federal Register* dated 29 June 1976 published a notice banning the use of chloroform in any human drug or cosmetic, with effective date of 29 July 1976.

A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Argentina

Import suspensions lifted. The import suspension of luxury, consumer and inessential goods, which was to have been in force until 31 December 1977, has been revoked by Ministry of Economy Resolution ME 292.

Alcoholic beverages (including whisky), cigarettes, furs, cosmetics and perfumes are understood to be still subject to the import suspension.

No further details are available at present but details of this resolution are awaited. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474.

Capital goods: payment terms. The Argentine Central Bank issued Circular RC641 on 5 July 1976 which replaces their Circulars RC328, 524 and 610. All imports of capital goods must now be made on the following terms (based on fob prices):

Value over	Up to US$	Payment of 1st quota	Balance to be paid
	10,000		Not before 180 days after date of shipment
10,000	30,000	6 months from date of shipment	Over 2 years
30,000	50,000	6 months from date of shipment	Over 3 years
50,000	100,000	6 months from date of shipment	Over 3½ years
100,000	200,000	6 months from date of shipment	Over 4 years
200,000	500,000	12 months from date of shipment	Over 4½ years
500,000	1,000,000	12 months from date of shipment	Over 5 years
over	1,000,000	Central Bank must be consulted for terms, but balance will not be paid before 5½ years	

When the value of the goods is higher than US$10,000 payment of not more than 5 per cent as confirmation of the order is allowed.

No other details are available at present, but further information is awaited. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Brazil

Raw lead: reference price and duty amendments. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2773, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial*, 20 May 1976, revoked the reference price on raw lead, refined and unrefined, of tariff headings 78.01.01.00 and 78.01.02.00, which was laid down by Resolution 2475. There is, therefore, no reference price applicable to these goods. Resolution 2774, published the same day, reduced the import duty on the same goods from 30 per cent to 7 per cent, provided that the importer can prove to CACEX that he has purchased 4 tonnes of domestically produced lead for every tonne that he wishes to import. In the case of goods coming from the LAFTA countries the rate is 2 per cent provided the same ratios are observed. The concession is valid for one year, lapsing on 20 May 1977. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Crawler tracks: duty increase. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2772, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial*, 24 May 1976, increased the import duty on crawler tracks, of tariff heading 87.06.20.00, from 35 per cent to 45 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Import licence suspensions. CACEX Comunicado 556, of 21 June 1976, extended the period of suspension of issue of import licence for certain goods until 31 December 1976. It also gave a consolidated list of the goods affected by this measure. Previous Comunicados suspending the issue of licences were revoked. Details are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Revised sole tax on fuels and lubricants. Declaratory Act CST-63, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 6 June 1976, gave rates of Sole Tax on Fuels and Lubricants. Details of the new rates are obtainable. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on styrene. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2777, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 8 June 1976, established a reference price of US$520.00 per tonne cif, for styrene monomer, of tariff heading 29.01.35.00. This supercedes the previous price of US$615.00. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference prices on enzymes. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2779, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 8 June 1976, established reference prices for the following enzymes:

Tariff heading	Product	Reference price US $/kg/cif
29.40.07.00	Pancreatin	41.00
29.40.10.00	Rennin	80.00
29.40.14.00	Bromelin	47.00

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on rubber balloons. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2778, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 8 June 1976, established a reference price on rubber balloons, of tariff heading 97.03.05.00, of US$8.40 per kg cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Plastics: revocation of duty reduction. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2770, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 24 May 1976, cancelled the duty deduction granted under Resolution 1288, which reduced the import duty on cyclopentadiene, dicyclopentadiene and vinyltoluene polymers, under tariff heading 39.02.02.99, from 55 per cent to 17 per cent. The import duty, therefore reverts to 55 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Asbestos fibre: duty reduction. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2775, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 24 May 1976, granted exemption from import duty on a quota of 32,194 tonnes of asbestos fibre, of tariff heading 25.24.02.00. The fibre in question is the chrysotile type with a fibre content between types 4A and 6D and also the amosite crucidolite types between types 3K and 4T (Canadian classification). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Industrial fatty acids: duty reduction. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2771, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* of 24 May 1976, reduced the import duty on industrial fatty acids, of tariff heading 15.10.03.00, from 55 per cent to 37 per cent. This is a temporary concession, lapsing on 31 December 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Venezuela

Automatic switchboards: duty increase. Resolution 990 of the Venezulean Ministerios de Hacienda y Fomento increases the tariff duty on products falling within tariff number 85.13.01.03, Automatic switchboards or exchanges, from 25 per cent to 60 per cent *ad val* cif. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Motorettes: tariff amendment. Resolution 990 of the Venezuelan Ministerios de Hacienda y Fomento adds a new tariff item to subheading 87.09. The new item – motorettes – appears as 87.09.01.02 and is subject to a customs duty of 10 per cent *ad val* cif. Inquiries: OTAR: 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Colombia

Additions to the Free Import Licence List. Resolution No. 011 of 4 May 1976 adds the following products to the Free Import Licence List:

01.02.89.02	07.05.89.01	07.05.89.02	08.06.00.01	08.12.89.01	22.05.01.00
22.05.02.01	22.05.02.99	22.05.03.01	22.05.03.99	22.05.04.00	22.05.05.99
22.06.01.01	22.06.01.99	22.06.89.01	22.06.89.99	22.07.00.01	22.07.00.99

Duty increase. Decree No. 636 of 5 April 1976 increases the customs duty payable on butyl and isobutyl acetate within tariff no. 29.14.02.45 from 20 per cent to 25 per cent *ad val.* cif.

Duty amendments. Decree No. 907 of 10 May 1976 amends the levels of duty payable on parts of or all of the following headings:

01.05, 01.06, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, 04.03 to 04.06, 05.01 to 05.03, 06.03, 07.01 to 07.04, Chapter 8, 10.06, 10.07, Chapter 11, 12.01, 12.02, 12.04, 12.05, 12.07 to 12.10, Chapters 13, 14 and 15, 91.01, 91.07

Decree No. 887 of 10 May 1976 amends the levels of duty payable on parts of or all of the following headings:

Chapter 16, 17.01, 17.02, 17.04, 17.05, 18.01, 18.03, 18.04, 18.05, 18.06, Chapter 19, Chapter 20, 21.01, 21.02, 21.04, 21.05, 21.06, 21.07, 23.01, 23.04, 23.07, 25.02, 25.07, 25.09, 25.12, 25.23, 27.05, 27.06, 27.07, 27.08, 27.10, 27.12, 27.13, 27.14, 27.15, 27.16, 27.17, 32.09, 32.10, 32.11, 32.12, 32.13, 33.01, 33.06, 34.01, 34.02, 34.04, 34.05, 34.06, 34.07, 36.01, 36.02, 36.05, 36.06, 36.07, 36.08, 41.02, 41.03, 41.04, 41.05, 41.06, 41.07, 41.08, 41.09, 41.10, Chapter 42, 43.02, 43.03, 43.04

Decree No. 744 of 22 April 1976 amends the levels of duty payable on parts of or all of the following headings:

09.01, 09.04, Chapter 22, Chapter 24, 39.02, 40.01, 40.06, 40.07, 40.08, 40.09, 40.11, 40.12, 40.13, 40.14, 40.15, 40.16, 51.02, 51.04, 53.05, 53.06, 53.07, 53.08, 53.10, 53.11, 53.12, 54.03, 54.04, 54.05, 55.09, 56.07, 57.05 to 57.12, Chapter 58, 59.03 to 59.06, 59.08 to 59.12, 59.14, 59.16, 60.02 to 60.06, Chapter 61, Chapter 62, 70.08, 70.09, 70.19, 71.01, 71.02, 71.03, 71.05, 71.06, 71.08, 71.11, 71.12, 71.13, 71.14, 71.15, 71.16

Addition of an item to 38.19. Decree No. 636 of 5 April 1976 creates an additional item within 38.19.89.00 'Other'. The new item 'Mixtures with a base of lead protoxide and metallic lead' will be classified under the tariff no. 38.19.89.06 and will attract a duty of 25 per cent *ad val.* cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,054	10,368	1,807	1,916	£ million		
1970	100	31,472	9,380	2,130	1,726	425	325	68	−30	735	−25	760
1971	102	32,396	9,544	1,991	1,801	70	−148	52	−10	1,058	280	778
1972	104	34,344	9,754	1,738	1,956	−18	−175	48	−11	131	−702	833
1973	110	35,894	10,008	1,864	2,114	1064	396	102	334	−842	−2,332	1,490
1974	110	35,521	9,805	2,087	1,959	597	666	81	−68	−3,611	−5,264	1,653
1975	108	35,413	9,768	1,809	1,716	−648	−386	−111	6	−1,700	−3,200	1,500
1973 3rd qtr.	110	8,994	2,506	488	528	181	46	29	47	−256	−625	369
4th qtr	109	8,958	2,513	476	545	205	96	32	51	−373	−950	577
1974 1st qtr	106	8,835	2,532	519	511	−176	−31	18	−59	−849	−1,297	448
2nd qtr.	110	8,789	2,339	513	487	295	191	43	27	−959	−1,366	407
3rd qtr.	112	8,905	2,418	516	485	373	368	3	−14	−852	−1,253	401
4th qtr.	111	8,992	2,516	539	476	105	139	17	−22	−951	−1,348	397
1975 1st qtr.	110	9,041	2,490	493	433	−176	−4	−31	−57	−466	−850	384
2nd qtr.	107	8,839	2,394	457	432	−254	−112	−54	−52	−360	−681	321
3rd qtr.	107	8,729	2,496	434	432	−156	−204	−29	60	−571	−986	415
4th qtr.	108	8,804	2,388	424	420	−62	−66	4	55	−303	−683	380
1976 1st qtr.	110	8,912	2.518	433	407	−47	16	15	−17	−60	−470	410
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.9	+0.8	+0.3	−3.8	−4.3							
on a year earlier	−1.2	−1.8	−2.0	−17.0	−9.0							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.8	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.3	108.1	109.9	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.0	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	4.0	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1974 2nd qtr.	107.8	109.6	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	577.4	2.5	318.4	134.0	137.5
3rd qtr.	108.1	110.0	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	105.0	105.9	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.6	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.9	3.2	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	99.8	100.0	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.3	99.5	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.3	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.5	100.1	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.0	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.9	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.4	101.7	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.1	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	132.1	123.8
2nd qtr.				107 p			291.1 p	214.4 p		1,246.7p	5.4	119.6 p		
1975 May	99.1	99.1	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	850.3	3.6	163.3	133.0	119.9
June	99.1	99.4	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.6	893.5	3.8	149.0	120.2	122.7
July	99.8	100.2	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	968.2	4.1	133.9	123.0	134.3
Aug.	98.1	98.3	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.6	997.4	4.3	135.9	115.2	124.9
Sept.	99.8	100.0	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	121.9	123.1
Oct.	100.9	100.7	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.7	118.9	130.5	128.9
Nov.	100.9	100.7	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.9	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.6	98.8	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.0	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.0	102.0	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.0	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.2	111.1	131.9	125.8
Feb.	101.8	101.6	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.5	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.3	113.5	128.4	125.4
Mar.	101.5	101.4	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	273.8	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.3	122.0	136.1	120.3
Apr.	102.0	102.2	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	285.2	211.5	209.3	1,233.7	5.3	123.9	136.5	131.1
May	103.1	104.2	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	290.6 p	214.8 p	210.6	1,250.0	5.4	120.6	138.4 p	137.1 p
June				91 p			297.6 p	217.0 p		1,256.5p	5.4	114.3 p		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.4	+1.8	−1.3	+1.3	+3.5		+9.4	+3.6	+3.5	+1.9		+3.5	+5	+3½
on a year earlier	+1.8	+2.7	−4.0	+14.2	+18.4		+29.0	+15.1	+21.8	+47.1		−27.2	+9	+7½

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Retailers' stocks in May

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of Table 1, the level of stocks at book value in May was 17 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was 3 per cent higher.

The estimates of value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (Table 2) suggest a further fall in stock levels in May. The fall in April had coincided with an increased volume of retail sales, but trade in May declined.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,860 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. As the basis of valuation is now comparable with that of a year earlier these percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in Table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both Table 1 and Table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 26 September 1975.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	• fifty-three week period

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* (At cost at end of month)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	98	101	102	102	104	101	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	106	111	111	111	115	115	116	121	131	140	129
1974	126	127	133	137	142	143	143	142	148	161	171	154
1975	148	151	159	155	160	163	162	163	173	191	205	185
1976	175	177	188	188	188							
1972	7	8	8	6	7	8	7	7	7	7	8	6
1973	7	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	22	23	22	22	20
1975	18	19	20	13	13	14	14	14	17	19	20	20
1976	18	17	18	22	17							
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	95	97	99	99	98	99	96	96	99	107	111	100
1972	95	97	99	100	100	102	98	98	100	107	112	99
1973	96	99	103	108	111	114	112	112	116	124	131	120
1974	113	112	116	117	118	118	116	114	116	124	129	115
1975	108	109	112	107	109	109	108	107	112	122	130	116
1976	109	109	115	114	113							
1972	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	—	1	−1
1973	1	2	4	9	11	13	15	14	17	16	17	20
1974	18	14	13	8	6	3	3	1	—	—	−1	−3
1975	−5	−3	−4	−8	−8	−7	−7	−6	−4	−1	—	—
1976	—	1	2	7	3							

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−14	−1	−17	2	−18	16	−8	4	12	18	−8	4
1972	−9	3	−12	9	4	20	−16	12	−12	8	8	−26
1973	26	16	9	88	55	42	18	8	21	5	23	23
1974	−7	−54	2	14	25	−12	18	−29	−3	−5	1	−18
1975	−27	−24	−6	−83	35	−4	19	—	41	34	36	−15
1976	−26	−18	27	−14	−17							

See note 2.

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ENCIRCLE TI 128 ON PAGE 213 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Retail sales in May

The following tables should have been published with the monthly article on retail sales in last week's *Trade and Industry* (page 127).

TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973	110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1974	109.9	101.8	115.9	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	114.2	108	121	115
1974 1st quarter	109.6	100.2	116.4	107	122	119
2nd quarter	107.8	101.1	112.6	104	118	115
3rd quarter	111.2	103.0	117.2	110	125	118
4th quarter	111.3	102.8	117.5	107	128	119
1975 1st quarter	111.3	101.1	118.6	111	129	118
2nd quarter	108.9	98.6	116.3	108	130	116
3rd quarter	105.5	97.9	111.0	108	111	112
4th quarter	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
1976 1st quarter	107.3	99.5	113.1	108	118	114
1975 February	111.6	101.2	119.1	112	132	118
March *	109.5	100.3	116.1	107	128	116
April	120.0	100.8	134.0	110	186	127
May	103.7	97.5	108.2	105	107	110
June *	104.1	97.7	108.7	108	103	111
July	105.4	97.7	111.0	110	109	112
August	104.8	97.5	110.2	109	113	110
September *	106 1	98.6	111.6	106	112	114
October	104.8	98.5	109.3	106	108	111
November	105.2	99.6	109.3	102	111	112
December *	107.0	100.1	112.1	107	117	113
1976 January	109.8	100.1	116.9	110	125	117
February	107.1	99.5	112.6	107	121	112
March *	105.5	98.9	110.4	106	112	112
April	108.5	101.4	113.6	106	128	112
May	105.7	98.3	111.1	105	117	112
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	107.9	99.9	113.7	108	120	114
1976 Mar.-May	106.5	99.5	111.6	106	119	112
Percentage increase	−1.3	−0.4	−1.9	−2	−1	−2

The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973	126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1974	146.7	144.5	148.2	149	143	150
1975	174.5	174.6	174.4	172	168	178
1974 1st quarter	136.6	134.6	138.1	139	134	139
2nd quarter	141.0	139.9	141.7	142	136	144
3rd quarter	150.9	147.9	153.1	157	147	154
4th quarter	158.2	155.7	160.0	159	155	162
1975 1st quarter	165.8	162.5	168.2	170	162	169
2nd quarter	173.7	172.3	174.8	168	177	177
3rd quarter	177.0	178.7	175.7	175	161	181
4th quarter	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
1976 1st quarter	190.2	192.9	188.3	183	176	195
1975 February	165.7	161.9	168.4	172	165	168
March *	165.9	165.7	166.0	165	163	167
April	183.9	170.4	193.8	170	236	189
May	166.9	171.1	163.8	163	151	169
June *	171.1	174.7	168.4	171	150	174
July	175.3	176.3	174.5	176	160	179
August	175.8	178.3	174.0	176	160	178
September *	179.2	180.9	177.9	173	162	186
October	177.8	181.0	175.5	173	158	183
November	180.8	185.9	177.1	168	165	186
December *	186.4	190.2	183.8	178	173	190
1976 January	193.2	191.5	194.4	185	185	202
February	189.6	193.7	186.7	182	179	192
March *	188.3	193.3	184.7	182	166	192
April	195.3	200.9	191.3	183	187	196
May	192.1	197.4	188.3	180	175	196
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	189.5	191.7	188.0	181	179	194
1976 Mar.-May	191.6	196.9	187.8	182	175	195
Percentage increase	1.1	2.7	−0.1	—	−2	—

(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The May 1976 sales period was the four weeks from 2 May 1976 to 29 May 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was the four weeks from 4 May 1975 to 31 May 1975.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. (See Technical Note in *Trade and Industry* of 14 March 1975.)

The press notice giving the *provisional* estimates of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for June and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 9 July 1976.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Movietone News 2457	BR/E 38623/11/7/81	8	9 July	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Hot Dreams	EC 38680/11/7/81	88	8 July	Butcher's Film Distributors Ltd.	Aquila Cinematografica S.r.L., Rome
Prickly Problems	EC 38682/11/7/81	82	8 July	Grand National Film Distributors Ltd.	Société Nouvelle de Doublage and Société Contrechamp France, Monti Films, Rome and Valisa Film, Brussels
			FOREIGN		
Lipstick	F 38679	90	7 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Freddie Fields, California
The Virgin Wife	F 38681	99	8 July	Miracle Films Ltd.	Flaminia Produzioni Cinematografiche S.r.L., Rome
Linda Lovelace for President	F 38683	86	9 July	New Realm Distributors Ltd.	Key Pictures, California
Office Party	F 38684	55	9 July	New Realm Distributors Ltd.	Oppidan (UK) Ltd., London
Won Ton Ton, the Dog Who Saved Hollywood	F 38685	92	9 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	David V. Picker, California
Saturday Night at the Baths	F 38686	89	9 July	Lagoon Associates Productions Ltd.	David P. Buckley, New York

Wholesale price indices in June

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products rose by 1 per cent in June to 217.0 (1970 = 100). The final effect of the Budget increases in duty on cigarettes accounted for ¼ per cent.

The index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco was ¾ per cent higher as a result of increases spread across all sectors. This index rose 3½ per cent in the second quarter of 1976 compared with 4 per cent in the same period last year.

Price increases for animal and poultry foods again made the largest contribution to the increase of 1 per cent in the provisional price index for the output of the food manufacturing industries.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12 month period has now levelled off after falling for 12 successive months. The figures for May and June were both 14¾ per cent.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 2½ per cent to 297.6.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries rose by 3 per cent in June. This increase was again due to higher prices for a wide range of imported commodities and semi-manufactures reflecting the lower average rate of exchange of sterling against major foreign currencies in June compared with May. This index rose by 10¾ per cent in the second quarter of this year.

Higher prices for a range of imported materials, notably wheat and tea, were responsible for the rise of 1¾ per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries. Prices of home produced materials fell again, lower potato prices accounting for more than half of the decrease.

1970 = 100

	April	May p	June p
Output prices (home sales)			
All manufactured products	211.5	214.8	217.0
Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	219.3	222.4	224.2
Products of the food manufacturing industries	219.3	222.4	224.8
Prices of materials and fuel purchased			
By manufacturing industry	285.2	290.6	297.6
materials	290.9	297.0	304.6
coal, gas and electricity	230.4	230.6	230.9
By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	305.2	312.2	320.5
materials	315.9	323.8	333.3
By food manufacturing industries	241.6	243.3	247.2
materials	241.4	243.1	247.1

p = provisional

The full article will be published next week.

Manufacturers' stocks in April

It is estimated that manufacturers' stocks fell by about £30 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in April. This fall appears to be due to destocking of finished goods, whilst work in progress and stocks of materials and fuel probably rose slightly during the month.

Monthly figures from January 1975 are shown below.

	£ million, 1970 prices seasonally adjusted
1975 January	no change
February	+40
March	−40
April	no change
May	−10
June	−100
July	−60
August	−50
September	−100
October	−90
November	+10
December	+10
1976 January	+20
February	+40
March	−40
April	−30

Sales by wholesale textile houses in March

Sales by wholesale textile houses in March showed a decrease of 1 per cent on a year earlier, compared with a decrease of 12 per cent in January and a decrease of 11 per cent in February.

The value of stocks at the end of March showed an increase of 7 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

		Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966		110	*−3*	..	..
1967		104	*−5*	..	..
1968		108	*4*	..	..
1969		103	*−5*	..	..
1970		107	*4*	..	..
1971		115	*8*	..	..
1972		121	*5*	..	..
1973		134	*11*	..	..
1974		147	*9*	..	..
1975		147	*1*	..	..
1973	1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
	2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
	3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
	4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974	1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
	2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
	3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
	4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*−3*
1975	1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
	2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*−2*
	3rd quarter	146	*−1*	193	*−1*
	4th quarter	165	*−5*	224	*13*
1976	1st quarter	133	*−8*	234	*7*
1975	March	176	*−3*	219	*16*
	April	149	*7*	195	*8*
	May	128	*4*	213	*3*
	June	130	*−2*	197	*−2*
	July	125	*7*	210	*2*
	August	126	*−11*	206	—
	September	186	*1*	193	*−1*
	October	193	*−6*	197	*3*
	November	150	*−3*	231	*4*
	December	153	*−4*	224	*13*
1976	January	86	*−12*	213	*4*
	February	138	*−11*	227	*6*
	March	174	*−1*	234	*7*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks‡
	Mar. '76	Jan.-Mar. '76	Mar. '76
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	22	−1	24
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	35	25	31
Women's underwear	−7	−11	4
Women's hose and children's socks	−17	−16	−15
Women's millinery	3	4	−8
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	8	−1	2
Children's wear	17	—	15
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	−3	−4	16
Gloves	−1	8	−14
Piece-goods and nets	−2	−2	25
Household textiles	1	1	39
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	−10	−13	5
Boots and shoes	10	3	13
Total†	−1	−8	7

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Note

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Production of man-made fibres in April

In the three months ended April 1976 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 2 per cent more than in the three months ended January 1976. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in the period January-April 1976 was 20 per cent higher than in January-April 1975, output of continuous filament increased by 21 per cent and staple fibre increased by 20 per cent.

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241.8	297.4
1969	553.9	252.5	301.5
1970	599.4	257.6	341.9
1971	613.1	276.4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1974	627.6	271.0	356.6
1975	562.5	246.5	316.0
1974 1st quarter	174.0	69.9	104.1
2nd quarter	175.1	71.7	103.4
3rd quarter	149.9	67.1	82.7
4th quarter	128.6	62.3	66.3
1975 1st quarter	129.1	56.4	72.7
2nd quarter	148.8	61.9	86.9
3rd quarter	134.1	58.5	75.7
4th quarter	150.4	69.7	80.7
1976 1st quarter	159.8	70.0	89.8
1975 January	42.1	18.2	24.0
February	42.6	17.6	25.0
March	44.3	20.6	23.7
April	48.1	20.0	28.1
May	53.6	22.3	31.4
June	47.0	19.6	27.4
July	47.0	19.3	27.7
August	40.8	17.9	22.8
September	46.3	21.2	25.1
October	55.1	24.0	31.1
November	49.1	23.6	25.5
December	46.2	22.1	24.1
1976 January	53.3	24.1	29.2
February	52.3	22.6	29.7
March	54.1	23.2	30.9
April	53.1	22.1	31.0

Index of the volume of production

1970 = 100

1968	87
1969	92
1970	100
1971	106
1972	107
1973	127
1974	111
1975	101

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	120	118
2nd quarter	119	116
3rd quarter	109	116
4th quarter	96	95
1975 1st quarter	92	91
2nd quarter	104	101
3rd quarter	96	101
4th quarter	112	111
1976 1st quarter	116	114
1975 January	85	83
February	95	97
March	96	93
April	103	102
May	111	109
June	98	93
July	95	100
August	89	99
September	103	105
October	116	110
November	114	112
December	105	110
1976 January	116	113
February	118	120
March	113	108
April	115	114

The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months but not for holidays or other seasonal variations. The seasonally adjusted figures are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974, and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 are incorporated.

Tel. 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Production in the cotton industry

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in the period January-April 1976 the amount of cloth woven was 1 per cent more than in January-April 1975. Production of single yarn increased by 10 per cent and doubled yarn increased by 1 per cent.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

	Single yarn (†)		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
	Cotton yarn (‡)	Spun man-made yarns and mixture yarn, inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
	million kg.				million metres	
1968	171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969	166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970	158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971	133.0	83.3	85.0		559.1	479.8
1972	121.4	81.7	75.4		513.0	469.8
1973	115.4	92.5	82.1		453.2	502.3
1974	101.3	87.7	74.7		409.5	505.3
1975	94.4	76.4	68.4		405.4	503.0
1975 January*	1.8	1.5	1.4		8.2	9.7
February	1.9	1.6	1.5		8.8	10.7
March	1.7	1.3	1.3		8.3	9.7
April*	1.8	1.6	1.2		7.7	9.4
May	2.1	1.7	1.5		8.1	10.0
June	1.7	1.6	1.3		8.7	10.1
July*	1.5	1.1	1.1		5.4	7.2
August	1.9	1.5	1.3		8.0	9.4
September	1.4	1.0	1.1		6.4	8.8
October*	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.5	10.9
November	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.7	10.9
December*	1.5	1.2	1.0		5.7	7.8
1976 January	2.3	1.5	1.4		8.6	11.0
February	2.2	1.4	1.4		8.3	10.8
March*	2.3	1.5	1.4		8.3	10.5
April	1.9	1.4	1.2		6.6	8.7

(†) Spun in the cotton industry. (‡) Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarn of cotton and cotton waste. * Average of five weeks.

The BBC Export Promotion Service

The primary aim of the BBC Export Promotion Service is to report Britain's progress as an industrial and trading nation and thus help to promote a favourable climate for exports. Every day the BBC tells the world about British business, industry, finance, technology, agriculture and science. It reports British achievements, progress and know-how, using the export knowledge of its specialist reporters. Products and manufacturers are named in these industrial broadcasts and inquiries resulting are passed on to manufacturers. The BBC broadcasts overseas in English and 39 other languages. Manufacturers who have an interesting story about British inventions, new products, unusual or striking export achievements, participation in overseas fairs, visits abroad, etc., are invited to contact the BBC. Telephone the Export Liaison Manager, BBC External Services, at 01-240 3456, ext. 2393/2039 or write; Export Liaison Manager, BBC External Services, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH.

Output in the wool textile industry

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally adjusted index of production) in April 1976 was 4 per cent less than in April 1975. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the period January-April 1976 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 11 per cent lower than in January-April 1975; deliveries of worsted yarns (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 1 per cent higher. Production of wool and hair tops was 23 per cent more and that of man-made fibre tops was 11 per cent less.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn (†)	Worsted yarn (§)	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) (‡)		Blankets (†)
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kilos					million sq. metres		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1975	110.6	46.8	44.4	112.1	75.5	76.8	74.6	24.7
1974 1st quarter	28.4	11.9	13.3	29.5	21.5	22.7	20.9	7.8
2nd quarter	33.6	12.8	15.5	36.7	23.5	25.8	21.2	7.2
3rd quarter	25.9	10.0	14.0	28.0	20.6	23.0	19.4	6.4
4th quarter	24.7	9.1	12.0	28.5	21.6	20.6	21.2	6.8
1975 1st quarter	27.3	11.2	12.8	29.4	20.4	17.7	20.7	7.6
2nd quarter	29.1	11.9	12.7	29.7	19.4	22.5	19.2	5.0
3rd quarter	25.5	11.4	9.2	24.6	15.7	19.8	17.1	5.7
4th quarter	28.7	12.3	9.6	28.4	19.9	16.8	17.6	6.4
1976 1st quarter	31.0	13.8	11.6	29.4	20.6	16.9	18.2	6.5
1975 January	8.9	3.6	4.3	9.9	7.0	6.1	7.3	2.3
February	9.1	3.8	4.2	9.5	6.4	5.6	6.6	2.9
March	9.3	3.9	4.4	10.1	7.0	6.1	6.8	2.5
April	9.6	4.1	4.5	9.8	6.9	7.0	6.5	1.8
May	9.3	3.5	3.7	9.9	6.0	7.2	6.3	1.7
June	10.2	4.3	4.5	10.0	6.4	8.2	6.4	1.6
July	9.0	4.5	3.8	8.0	5.1	6.7	6.4	1.9
August	7.0	2.7	2.2	7.5	4.7	5.9	4.5	1.7
September	9.5	4.2	3.2	9.1	5.9	7.2	6.2	2.1
October	9.7	4.0	3.6	9.9	7.2	6.6	6.4	2.1
November	9.7	4.3	3.6	9.2	6.5	5.4	5.7	1.9
December	9.3	4.0	2.4	9.3	6.2	4.8	5.5	2.4
1976 January	10.0	4.5	4.3	9.5	6.4	5.1	5.8	2.6
February	9.6	4.2	3.2	9.2	6.6	5.3	5.9	1.9
March	11.4	5.1	4.1	10.7	7.6	6.5	6.5	2.0
April		5.0	3.9	9.5	7.0	5.7	5.5	1.5

(†) Estimated. (‡) Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components. (§) From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the woollen and worsted yarn headings. In April deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.8 million kilos.

Turnover of the catering trades in May

Catering turnover, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, increased again in May.

The total turnover of the catering trades, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, in the three months' period March to May 1976 was nearly 4 per cent more than in the preceding three months December 1975 to February 1976.

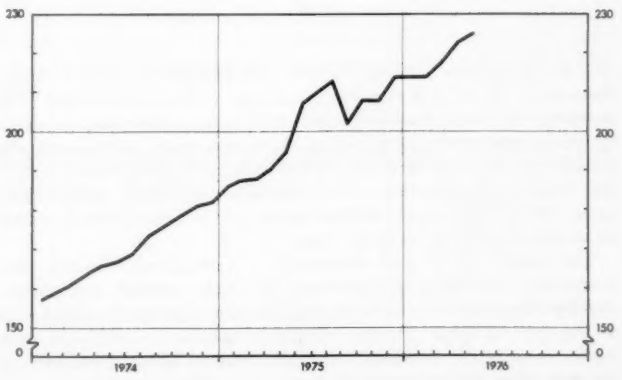
Recent percentage increases compared with a year earlier (*not* seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are as follows:

	All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1975 2nd quater	19	17	13	22	17
3rd quarter	20	17	13	24	17
4th quarter	17	16	13	20	14
1976 1st quarter	13	15	9	14	17
January	14	21	11	13	18
February	13	12	8	15	17
March	13	12	8	14	16
April	21	21	17	23	11
May	12	16	7	12	17

NB. 1. The Easter holiday fell entirely within the April trading period this year, whereas in 1975 it was in March.
2. The Spring Bank holiday fell between the May and June periods this year, whereas in 1975 it was entirely in May.

Value of catering trade turnover

Seasonally adjusted
1969 = 100



Turnover for all caterers in the three months March to May 1976 was 15 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier. Public houses (the largest component of the all-caterers index) and

licensed hotels and holiday camps both reported increases of 16 per cent and canteens an increase of 15 per cent. Restaurants, cafes, fish and chip shops showed an increase of 10 per cent.

TABLE 1 Turnover of all caterers seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week†	1969 = 100
	Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 – £2,533 million)
1969	100
1970	108
1971	118
1972	131
1973	148
1974	170
1975	201
1974 1st quarter	159
2nd quarter	166
3rd quarter	173
4th quarter	180
1975 1st quarter	187
2nd quarter	198
3rd quarter	208
4th quarter	210
1976 1st quarter	216r
1975 January*	186
February	188
March*	188
April	191
May	195
June*	207
July	210
August	213
September*	202
October	208
November	208
December*	214
1976 January	214
February	214r
March*	218
April	223
May	225
1975 December-February 1976	214
1976 March-May	222
Percentage increase	4

† The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The May 1976 period was the four weeks from 2 May 1976 to 29 May 1976; the May 1975 period was the four weeks from 4 May 1975 to 31 May 1975. The series are now finally rebased using the detailed results of the large scale inquiry into the catering trades for 1969. A full report on the 1969 inquiry was published in November 1972 under the title 'Catering Trades 1969: Statistical Inquiry' (HMSO, 32p net).
r = revised figure.

Report of National Food Survey Committee

The Report of the National Food Survey Committee deals with the economic, social and nutritional aspects of household food consumption in Great Britain in 1974, when total consumers' expenditure on goods and services fell slightly in real terms. Simultaneously, the cost of imports of food and animal feeding-stuffs increased sharply and retail food prices rose relatively more than other retail prices, so that the proportion of total consumers' expenditure devoted to food increased marginally to 22 per cent.

The report shows that housewives' spending on food for consumption in the home (exclusive of soft drinks, alcohol, and sweets) rose by 13 per cent to an average of £3.10 per person per week, but as the general level of prices they paid for food was 15 per cent higher than in the previous year, this implies a fall of 2 per cent in the real value of their food purchases; three-fifths of this decline was in purchases of convenience foods (mainly in canned foods). This decrease in real value was concentrated in the January to March quarter, when the disruption to fuel supplies and the three-day working week caused temporary shortages of certain products and their associated packaging materials.

The rise in food prices would have been greater had it not been for the introduction of subsidies on a selected list of foods of particular importance in the budgets of households in the lower income groups. A price index for these foods, calculated from the Survey data, showed a rise of only 5½ per cent in 1974 compared with a rise of 18 per cent in a price index for un-subsidised foods. Household spending on these subsidised foods took up 20 per cent of the food budget in 1974 compared with 21 per cent in the previous year, and ranged from 60p per head per week in the highest income group to 74p per head in pensioner households. Average quantities purchased changed very little between the two years, although butter increased by 8 per cent at the expense of margarine.

The nutritional section of the report contains estimates of the average energy value and nutrient content of the diet in various types of household and compares them with the intakes recommended by the Department of Health and Social Security. The DHSS recommendations were exceeded for all nutrients in all groups of households except for vitamin D and for energy and iron in some larger families, regardless of income. (It should be noted that the Survey does not evaluate pharmaceutical intakes, and most adults need no dietary vitamin D, since they obtain all they need from the action of sunlight on the skin.) New analyses of the nutrient composition of meat and meat products led to slight decreases in the computed intakes of energy, iron and thiamin. Also tabulated in the nutrition section are the contributions made by different foods to the total nutrient intake of large families compared with small families, and of low-income families compared wih high-income families. These contributions varied more with family size than with income; in particular, the large families obtained more of their nutrients from white bread, milk, potatoes and breakfast cereals, while the small families obtained relatively more from meat.

The report presents for the first time tables showing the difference in average food consumption, expenditure, prices and nutrition between households classified according to the type of tenure under which they occupy their dwellings. Households renting furnished accommodation recorded the highest level of food prices paid, the highest cost per calorie and the lowest value of garden and allotment supplies. Council tenants paid the lowest prices, incurred the lowest cost per calorie and had a low level of garden and allotment supplies; they nevertheless spent practically as much per head on food as the national average and obtained a nutrient intake safely above the recommended levels. The lowest food expenditure per head was recorded by occupiers of rent-free accommodation (usually service accommodation, occupied by virtue of employment) but they obtained the highest value of garden and allotment produce and food prerequisites.

The report also includes detailed tables of average consumption, expenditure and prices of over 150 food items and some summarised information on regional, income group and family composition differences in consumption and nutrition.

Notes

Copies of the report are obtainable from HMSO, price £3.50 (by post £3.73½p).

The National Food Survey is a continuous sampling inquiry into the domestic food consumption and expenditure of private households in Great Britain. In 1974, nearly 6,500 households provided a record of their food purchases.

Though intended primarily to provide information for administrative purposes, the National Food Survey yields data of interest to all who are concerned with the home market for food.

Summarised results of the Survey are published as soon as possible in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, in *Trade and Industry*, and in the Ministry's *Food Facts*. Data for the first quarter of 1976 were published in *Trade and Industry*, 2 July. Unpublished results are available for some detailed analyses, including quarterly estimates of household food consumption, expenditure and average prices paid for about 150 categories of food by households of different income group and family composition, and in different areas of Great Britain. Such unpublished data can be supplied on payment of a fee, which varies according to the amount and nature of the information required. Application should be made to the National Food Survey Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Building, Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2DT (tel. 01-868 7161 ext. 44).

Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in June

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production in the five weeks ending 26 June, as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers.

June car production at 129,000 units (25,800 per week) was 18 per cent above the number produced in June 1975. The cumulative total of cars produced in the first six months of this year was 6 per cent above that in the corresponding period of 1975. Commercial vehicle output of 36,900 units (7,380 per week) was 6 per cent above the level in June 1975; in January to June 1976 as a whole, commercial vehicle output was 7 per cent below that of a year earlier.

Seasonally adjusted, June car output of 108,000 units was 2 per cent above the monthly average for 1975. Commercial vehicle output at 29,500 units, was 7 per cent below the 1975 average. Comparing the second quarter with the first quarter, car production fell by 5 per cent and commercial vehicle production by 4 per cent.

Table 3 shows provisional estimates of new car registrations. Seasonally adjusted, new car registrations in Great Britain in June are provisionally estimated at 91,000. In the second quarter, the average monthly level of registrations was 107,000 a rise of 1 per cent from the average in the first quarter.

TABLE 1 Estimated UK production in June 1976

Thousands

	Cars		Commercial vehicles	
	Month	Weekly average	Month	Weekly average
Estimated output:				
1976 (5 weeks ended 26.6.76)	129.0	25.8	36.9	7.4
1975 (5 weeks ended 28.6.75)	109.4	21.9	34.9	7.0
Percentage change		+18		+6

TABLE 2 UK vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)

Thousands

	1975			1976					Average of		
	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	Apr.	May	June	Jan./Mar. 1976	Apr./June 1976	% change
Cars	91	107	99	117	111	104	122	108	117	111	−5
Commercial vehicles	30.2	30.3	29.5	31.8	30.6	29.8	32.4	29.5	31.8	30.6	−4

TABLE 3 New car registrations

Thousands

	1975			1976					Average of		
	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	Apr.	May	June	Jan./Mar. 1976	Apr./June 1976	% change
Recorded	96	108	69	115	111	116	118	98			
Seasonally adjusted	94	103	84	106	107	118	112	91	106	107	+1

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PQ 601 Gas for first quarter 1976
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Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 and SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors) and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government bookshops or through booksellers.

New companies registered in Northern Ireland during June

During June 1976, 56 private companies with a total nominal capital of £1,509,150 were incorporated. One public company without a share capital was incorporated in the same month.

During the period January-June 287 companies with a total nominal capital of £8,198,850 were incorporated as compared with 247 companies with a total nominal capital of £8,056,446 in the same period in 1975.

Direct exporters and the credit terms of exports

As part of the overseas transactions inquiry for 1974 conducted by the Department of Industry, information was collected on the value of direct exports in 1974 and the terms of credit on which they were made. The results of the inquiry presented in the following tables are given in more detail in the Business Monitor M 4, Overseas Transactions 1974, published this month. This Business Monitor, which also contains other results of the overseas transactions inquiry relating to direct investment and earnings, overseas payments and receipts in respect of royalties and overseas transactions in respect of film and television material in 1974, is obtainable by standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office: separate or additional copies are obtainable from the Librarian, Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG.

About 2,500 firms were approached in the inquiry but many firms had nothing to report and the response was not complete. Although the oil companies and public sector enterprises (other than the British Steel Corporation) were not asked to make returns in respect of exports in the inquiry, Table 1 incorporates figures of exports by oil companies and by the National Coal Board. These figures, obtained from published sources, are excluded from the other detailed tables, as are the exports of large non-responding enterprises which have also been incorporated in Table 1 from published sources.

Exports analysed by size

The total of 1974 exports covered in Table 1 represents 87 per cent of total United Kingdom exports as recorded in the overseas trade statistics for 1974. It is thought that nearly all enterprises with exports of more than £1 million are covered, though there is more likelihood as export values rise in general that the coverage of enterprises with export values of the order of £1 million becomes less complete. The figures for enterprises with exports of under £1 million are incomplete.

Half of total exports as recorded in the overseas trade statistics in 1974 were accounted for by 89 enterprises, compared with 100 in 1973. The number of enterprises with exports of over £50 million rose to 50 in 1974, compared to 31 in 1973, and has doubled since 1972. The value of these exports of enterprises accounted for some 41 per cent of total exports compared with 35 per cent and 31 per cent for enterprises with exports of over £50 million in 1973 and 1972 respectively. Two-thirds of total exports were accounted for by about 230 enterprises, compared with over 300 in 1973. At the other end of the scale, there are several thousand small firms not covered in this inquiry, which sell abroad on a minor scale or occasionally, but together account for the exports not covered in Table 1.

Exports analysed by category of enterprise

In Table 2, which is based solely on returns received in the inquiry, UK exports have been analysed into five broad categories based on the nature of enterprises' direct investment links abroad, each of which is further analysed by size. The exports of companies without overseas affiliates are substantially more deficient than those of the other categories as most of the small exporters not included in the inquiry would fall into this category. Amongst respondants to the inquiry, all but one of the enterprises with exports of over £50 million had direct investment links. Only eight enterprises with exports exceeding £10 million had no direct investment links whatsoever.

Table 3 sets out a rough distribution of total exports by category of enterprise when allowance is made for non-response. These estimates are approximate, but give a broad indication of the extent to which the different categories of enterprises contribute to total exports. Enterprises with direct investment links of one kind or another increased their total share of exports from 81 per cent in 1973 to 84 per cent in 1974, with those of foreign controlled enterprises rising from 24 per cent of total exports to 25 per cent. United States controlled enterprises accounted for nearly one-fifth of total exports in 1974, while UK enterprises with overseas affiliates increased their contribution to 55 per cent of the total.

Exports analysed by industry

When respondent enterprises are classified into broad industry groups, as in Table 4, there are significant differences in the contributions of the categories of enterprises distinguished to the exports of each industry. United States controlled enterprises accounted for

TABLE 1 Size distribution of large exporters 1971-74 (1)

Amounts in £ million

Size of direct exports during year	1971		1972		1973		1974	
	Number of enterprises	Amounts	Number of enterprises	Amounts	Number of enterprises	Amounts	Number of enterprises	Amounts
Over £50 million	23	2,883	24	2,991	31	4,307	50	6,840
Over £20 million but not more than £50 million	44	1,275	47	1,388	63	1,835	85	2,621
Over £10 million but not more than £20 million	70	1,000	82	1,147	83	1,139	109	1,532
Over £5 million but not more than £10 million	118	832	129	907	126	884	180	1,304
Over £1 million but not more than £5 million	584	1,325	554	1,245	565	1,336	766	1,813
Under £1 million (2)	859	326	902	348	740	302	686	318
Total	1,698	7,641	1,738	8,026	1,608	9,803	1,876	14,428

(1) Including figures for non-respondents with exports of over £1 million.
(2) Figures are incomplete.

TABLE 2 Distribution of direct exports (1) by category of enterprise and size of total exports, 1974

Analysis of returns received — Values in £ million

Size of total exports	United States controlled enterprises		Other foreign controlled enterprises		Associates of foreign enterprises		United Kingdom enterprises with overseas affiliates		United Kingdom enterprises with no overseas affiliates		Total	
	Total exports	Per cent	Total exports	Per cent	Total exports	Per cent	Total exports	Per cent	Total exports	Per cent	Total exports	Per cent
Over £50 million	1,060.8	18.1	496.5	8.5	245.0	4.2	4,001.3	68.2	61.5	1.0	5,865.1	100
Number of enterprises	(8)		(5)		(3)		(25)		(1)		(42)	
Over £20 million but not more than £50 million	465.6	21.4	97.4	4.5	152.1	6.9	1,406.4	64.7	53.3	2.5	2,174.8	100
Number of enterprises	(16)		(3)		(5)		(46)		(2)		(72)	
Over £10 million but not more than £20 million	341.6	24.0	151.5	10.6	28.9	2.1	835.3	58.7	66.2	4.6	1,423.5	100
Number of enterprises	(24)		(10)		(2)		(60)		(5)		(101)	
Over £5 million but not more than £10 million	266.5	23.7	93.4	8.2	22.4	2.0	557.3	49.5	186.7	16.6	1,126.3	100
Number of enterprises	(36)		(13)		(3)		(74)		(27)		(153)	
Over £1 million but not more than £5 million	291.5	21.8	102.0	7.6	37.9	2.8	449.7	33.8	453.4	34.0	1,334.5	100
Number of enterprises	(122)		(46)		(13)		(172)		(199)		(552)	
Under £1 million	44.1	16.5	25.0	9.3	5.6	2.0	60.3	22.6	132.1	49.6	267.1	100
Number of enterprises	(94)		(80)		(16)		(134)		(294)		(618)	
Total	2,470.1	20.3	965.8	7.9	491.9	4.0	7,310.3	60.0	953.2	7.8	12,191.3	100
Number of enterprises	(300)		(157)		(42)		(511)		(528)		(1,538)	

(1) Excluding the exports of oil companies.

some 48 per cent of the exports of the motor vehicle industry, and just over one-quarter of the exports of the metal manufacture and engineering industries. Other foreign controlled enterprises also had relatively high exports in the metal manufacture and engineering industries. UK enterprises with branches, subsidiaries and associates overseas accounted for some three-fifths of total manufacturing industry exports and about half of those from non-manufacturing industries. Enterprises with no overseas affiliates had relatively high exports in non-manufacturing industries.

Exports analysed by length of credit

As in previous inquiries, enterprises were asked to analyse (in percentage terms) the credit terms on which their total exports were made. Table 5 summarises the returns received in the inquiry and classifies them into broad industry groups. As in Table 4, where an enterprise spans several industry groups it is classified to its main activity, which may not necessarily be the activity giving rise to exports on particular terms of credit. Exports of the food, drink and tobacco industries were made on generally shorter terms of credit than those of other industries, 98 per cent of them being made on terms of credit of less than 180 days. On the other hand, some 19 per cent of the exports of the shipbuilding and vehicles (other than motor vehicles) industries were made on credit terms exceeding 180 days, with 8 per cent on credit terms exceeding five years.

TABLE 3 Distribution of total exports by category of enterprises, 1971-74

	Percentages				
	1971	1972	1973		1974
			All exports	Exports to related concerns	All exports
Percentages of total exports (1) accounted for by:					
United States controlled enterprises	17	17	17	10	19
Other foreign controlled enterprises	6	7	7	3	6
Associates of foreign enterprises	5	5	5	1	4
United Kingdom enterprises with overseas affiliates	52	52	52	15	55
Other enterprises	20	19	19	—	16
Total	100	100	100	29	100

(1) Adjusted approximately for non-response.

TABLE 6 Percentage analysis of exports analysed by credit terms 1971-74

	Percentage of total exports (1)			
Original terms on which exports were made	1971	1972	1973	1974
Cash or credit of up to 60 days	55.7	55.6	56.4	57.7
Credit of 61 to 180 days	32.4	33.4	33.5	32.9
Credit of 181 days to 1 year	4.9	3.9	3.8	3.3
Credit of over 1 year and up to 21 months	1.1	1.0	1.9	1.5
Credit of over 21 months and up to 5 years	2.7	2.5	1.9	1.9
Credit of over 5 years	3.2	3.6	2.5	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Adjusted approximately for non-response.

Table 6 attempts to allow for the effects of non-response, which is likely to be proportionally greater in the cash and short-term credit categories of exports. There was a further small movement towards shorter credit terms in 1974, exports made on credit terms of under 180 days accounting for nearly 91 per cent of the total, nearly 1 per cent more than in 1973. Exports made on credit terms of between 180 days and 21 months fell to just under 5 per cent of the total in 1974 from nearly 6 per cent in 1973. On the other hand, exports on credit terms of over 21 months rose marginally to account for just over 4½ per cent of total exports in 1974.

Notes and definitions

Direct exports were defined as those exports for which the enterprise making the return, its own exporting subsidiaries, or export agents working to its instructions, submitted export documents to HM Customs. These figures would not necessarily represent the whole of an enterprise's contribution to the export earnings of the UK since part of its output may be sold to other UK companies and in turn exported by them, with or without further processing.

The credit terms relate to the original period of credit extended, and where payment was to be made in instalments, the period to final payment was taken as the length of credit extended. Exports made under Financial and Buyer Credit Guarantees were grouped with other exports on credit terms exceeding five years, the latter being very small.

The statistics relate to the UK, defined as Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

TABLE 4 Distribution of direct exports (1) by category of enterprise and by industry group, 1974

Analysis of returns received — Values in £ million

Industry group	United States controlled enterprises	Other foreign controlled enterprises	Associates of foreign enterprises	United Kingdom enterprises with overseas affiliates	United Kingdom enterprises with no overseas affiliates	Total	Number of enterprises
Food, drink and tobacco	91.9	94.4	6.2	694.7	33.0	920.2	75
Chemical and allied industries	304.3	136.5	61.1	1,102.8	29.4	1,634.1	123
Metal manufacture and engineering	1,192.7	554.4	212.5	2,383.1	190.0	4,532.7	439
Shipbuilding and vehicles (other than motor vehicles)	9.7	—	—	607.6	35.6	652.9	24
Motor vehicles	536.3	6.3	7.0	539.7	18.2	1,107.5	25
Other manufacturing industries	247.9	93.8	204.6	1,419.0	269.6	2,234.9	508
Other activities	87.3	80.4	0.5	563.4	377.4	1,109.0	344
All industries	2,470.1	965.8	491.9	7,310.3	953.2	12,191.3	1,538

(1) Excluding the exports of oil companies.

TABLE 5 Analysis of direct exports by terms of original credit 1974 (1)

Analysis of returns received — Original terms on which exports were made

Industry group	Cash or credit of up to 60 days		Credit of 61-810 days		Credit of 181 days to 1 year		Credit of over 1 year and up to 21 months		Credit of over 21 months and up to 5 years		Credit of over 5 years (2)		Total exports		Number of enterprises
	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	
Food, drink and tobacco	711.9	77	192.6	21	4.2	—	—	—	4.9	1	6.6	1	920.2	100	75
Chemical and allied industries	934.9	57	654.4	40	34.2	2	2.3	—	0.1	—	8.2	1	1,634.1	100	123
Metal manufacture and engineering	2,387.0	53	1,522.0	34	211.6	5	149.6	3	136.2	3	126.3	3	4,532.7	100	439
Shipbuilding and vehicles (other than motor vehicles)	383.2	59	153.7	23	20.0	3	11.4	2	30.1	5	54.5	8	652.9	100	24
Motor vehicles	684.7	62	366.8	33	24.2	2	5.5	1	26.3	2	—	—	1,107.5	100	25
Other manufacturing industries	1,361.2	64	745.5	32	81.5	3	7.3	—	14.9	1	24.5	1	2,234.9	100	508
Other activities	583.9	53	332.5	30	36.1	3	14.3	1	35.7	3	106.5	10	1,109.0	100	344
All industries	7,046.8	58	3,967.5	33	411.8	3	190.4	1	248.2	2	326.6	3	1,2191.3	100	1,538

(1) Excludes oil companies and public sector enterprises.
(2) Includes exports made under financial guarantee and buyer credit arrangements.

UK trade by air in 1975

Between 1960 and 1975 the value of UK trade by air, on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, increased fifteenfold from £439 million, 5 per cent of total UK trade, to £6,690 million, 15 per cent of total UK trade. During this period exports by air increased from £225 million to £3,383 million while imports by air rose from £214 million to £3,307 million. The importance of trade by air increased nearly every year over this period, the most marked exception being a 1½ per cent fall in the proportion of air imports in total imports in 1974, due very largely to a sharp increase in the value of oil imports which arrive in the UK by sea.

Exports by air, valued at £3,383 million, accounted for 17 per cent of total exports in 1975, ½ per cent less than in 1974, possibly because rapidly rising costs, and consequently higher freight charges increased the differential between sea and air cargo costs to the detriment of the latter. In contrast imports by air, at £3,307 million, accounted for 14 per cent of total imports, ½ per cent higher than in the previous year but still below the 1972 and 1973 proportions because of the oil factor.

Table 1 shows that the value of exports delivered by air increased by 16 per cent in 1975 compared with the 20 per cent rise in total exports while imports by air rose by 7 per cent compared with the 4 per cent rise in total imports.

Air trade is naturally concentrated in items which have a high value to weight ratio. This is illustrated by a comparison of Tables 1 and 1A. These show that, although air exports accounted for 17 per cent of total exports by value in 1975, by weight they were only ½ per cent of total shipments. This difference is even more marked for imports where the corresponding figures are 14 per cent and one tenth of 1 per cent.

By weight total exports fell by 4 per cent between 1974 and 1975, while the fall in air exports was much more marked at 24 per cent. The weight of total imports was 17 per cent lower in 1974 than in 1975 while air imports were reduced by 25 per cent.

Tables 2 and 2A show that of the £469 million rise in the value of exports by air in 1975 almost half, £218 million, was accounted for by the increased value of deliveries of machinery which form a third of all exports by air. By weight however there was a reduction in air shipments of this commodity in 1975. The value of non-metallic mineral manufactures (mainly diamonds) exported by air increased by £104 million last year to a level 19 per cent up on 1974 and to 56 per cent of the total exports of this product, as against 52 per cent in 1974. Diamonds of course have a particularly high value in relation to their size and weight and in 1975 non-metallic mineral manufactures accounted for 19 per cent of total air exports by value, but only 1 per cent by weight. Medical and pharmaceutical products, 41 per cent of which were carried by air in 1975, and professional and scientific instruments, 33 per cent in value carried by air in 1975, are two further commodity groups which have a very high value in relation to their weight, and each form a larger proportion of air exports by value than they do by weight. Other goods which are often carried by air are those which are time critical, such as live animals or fresh fruit and vegetables which may perish if they are too long in transit, or time critical in the sense that they are required such as fashion goods. In 1975 the value of exports of live animals by air fell slightly from £26 million to £25 million and represented 47 per cent of the total exports of this group as against 58 per cent in 1974. Exports of clothing by air in 1975 were valued at £101 million, 38 per cent of total exports of this product. Shipments of transport equipment by air increased by £32 million in 1975, a rise of 15 per cent, rather less than the 34 per cent rise in total exports of transport equipment. The weight of transport equipment despatched by air however fell over this period. The sharpest fall in exports by air in 1975 was suffered by non-ferrous metals with a reduction of 44 per cent on the 1974 level, to £92 million. By weight the drop was 57 per cent.

Imports by air in 1975 were £221 million higher than in 1974 but there was a reduction in the weight of arrivals. Tables 3 and 3A indicate that £103 million of the rise in value was the result of a 15 per cent increase in the value of air imports of non-metallic mineral manufactures (which include diamonds), three-quarters of which are delivered by air. Imports by air of non-electrical machinery were 8 per cent higher, which, while less than the 17 per cent increase in total arrivals of the category, accounted for a further £55 million of

TABLE 1 Value of air trade compared with total trade

	Exports fob					Imports cif				
Year	Total £ million	Change on previous year %	By air £ million	Change on previous year %	Air exports as proportion of total exports %	Total £ million	Change on previous year %	By air £ million	Change on previous year %	Air imports as proportion of total imports %
1960	3,789	—	225	—	5.9	4,655	—	214	—	4.6
1961	3,955	4	273	21	6.9	4,546	−2	253	18	5.6
1962	4,062	3	299	10	7.4	4,628	2	271	7	5.8
1963	4,365	7	335	12	7.7	4,983	8	306	13	6.1
1964	4,565	5	339	1	7.4	5,696	14	376	23	6.6
1965	4,901	7	425	25	8.7	5,751	1	438	16	7.6
1966	5,255	7	551	30	10.5	5,949	3	546	25	9.2
1967	5,230	0	606	10	11.6	6,437	8	642	18	10.0
1968	6,434	23	832	37	12.9	7,898	23	929	45	11.8
1969	7,339	14	979	18	13.3	8,315	5	1,083	17	13.0
1970	8,061	10	1,095	12	13.6	9,037	9	1,220	13	13.5
1971	9,181	14	1,304	19	14.2	9,821	9	1,335	9	13.6
1972	9,746	6	1,539	18	15.8	11,138	13	1,585	19	14.2
1973	12,454	28	2,111	37	16.9	15,840	42	2,366	49	14.9
1974	16,600	33	2,914	38	17.6	23,284	47	3,086	30	13.3
1975	19,929	20	3,383	16	17.0	24,163	4	3,307	7	13.7

TABLE 1(a) Air trade by weight compared with total trade by weight

	Exports					Imports				
Year	Total '000s metric tonnes	Change on previous year %	By air '000s metric tonnes	Change on previous year %	Air exports as proportion of total exports %	Total '000s metric tonnes	Change on previous year %	By air '000s metric tonnes	Change on previous year %	Air imports as proportion of total imports %
1974	54,849	—	364	—	0.7	215,005	—	254	—	0.1
1975	52,405	−4	275	−24	0.5	179,163	−17	191	−25	0.1

Notes to Table 1(A): Weight data for total trade are not available before 1974, since all exports and imports have only been expressed in common weight units (ie metric tonnes) from that date.

The fall in the total weight of goods exported in 1975 was very similar to the fall in the volume of shipments, measured by the export volume index based on 1970 = 100, on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. The reduction in the total weight of goods imported however was more than double the drop in the import volume index since the most marked reductions in imports in 1975 were in relatively high weight – for value – goods such as oil and basic materials.

TABLE 2 Commodity composition of exports fob by value

Selected divisions	1974 Total £m	1974 By air £m	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports of commodity %	1975 Total £m	1975 By air £m	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports of commodity %
00 Live animals	45	26	1	58	53	25	1	47
21 Hides and skins	92	27	1	29	102	29	1	28
27 Crude fertilisers	79	0	0	—	80	1	0	1
51 Chemical elements and compounds	730	44	2	6	654	47	1	7
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	301	127	4	42	373	154	5	41
55 Essential oils and perfumes	146	8	0	5	169	7	0	4
61 Leather and leather manufactures, not elsewhere specified	94	31	1	33	99	34	1	34
62 Rubber manufactures, not elsewhere specified	167	7	0	4	221	8	0	4
63 Wood and cork manufactures (excluding furniture)	25	1	0	4	29	1	0	3
65 Textile yarn, etc.	745	64	2	9	698	60	2	9
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, not elsewhere specified	1,060	556	19	52	1,178	660	20	56
67 Iron and steel	553	4	0	1	683	4	0	1
68 Non-ferrous metals	689	164	6	24	539	92	3	17
69 Manufactures of metal, not elsewhere specified	470	28	1	6	617	36	1	6
71 Machinery other than electric	3,083	649	22	21	4,255	751	22	18
72 Electrical machinery	1,132	332	12	29	1,529	448	13	29
73 Transport equipment	1,767	219	8	12	2,365	251	7	11
84 Clothing	230	97	3	42	265	101	3	38
85 Footwear	47	8	0	17	53	8	0	15
86 Professional and scientific instruments	424	141	5	33	518	170	5	33
89 Miscellaneous manufactures, not elsewhere specified	659	195	7	30	782	232	7	30
All other goods	4,062	186	6	5	4,667	264	8	6
Total	16,600	2,914	100	18	19,929	3,383	100	17

TABLE 2(a) Commodity composition of exports by weight

Selected divisions	1974 Total '000s metric tonnes	1974 By air '000s metric tonnes	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports of commodity %	1975 Total '000s metric tonnes	1975 By air '000s metric tonnes	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports of commodity %
00 Live animals	49	4	1	8	60	6	2	10
21 Hides and skins	67	2	0	3	88	1	0	1
27 Crude fertilisers	9,481	8	2	0	8,052	1	0	0
51 Chemical elements and compounds	4,151	12	3	0	2,919	6	2	0
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	84	10	3	12	87	10	4	11
55 Essential oils and perfumes	238	3	1	1	233	2	1	1
61 Leather and leather manufactures, not elsewhere specified	27	4	1	15	22	3	1	14
62 Rubber manufactures, not elsewhere specified	221	3	1	1	223	3	1	1
63 Wood and cork manufactures (excluding furniture)	130	7	2	5	61	1	0	2
65 Textile yarn, etc.	429	14	4	3	351	11	4	3
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, not elsewhere specified	2,149	13	3	1	2,194	4	1	0
67 Iron and steel	3,536	5	2	0	3,368	2	1	0
68 Non-ferrous metals	595	4	1	1	509	2	1	0
69 Manufactures of metal, not elsewhere specified	894	13	4	1	1,274	10	4	1
71 Machinery other than electric	2,004	94	26	5	2,242	74	27	3
72 Electrical machinery	528	24	7	5	555	24	9	4
73 Transport equipment	2,011	44	12	2	1,798	29	11	2
84 Clothing	33	9	2	27	32	8	3	25
85 Footwear	16	2	1	13	15	2	1	13
86 Professional and scientific instruments	90	13	3	15	81	10	3	12
89 Miscellaneous manufactures, not elsewhere specified	334	33	9	10	308	31	11	10
All other goods	27,782	43	12	0	27,933	35	13	0
Total	54,849	364	100	0.7	52,405	275	100	0.5

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TABLE 3 Commodity composition of imports cif by value

Selected divisions	1974 Total £m	1974 By air £m	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports of commodity %	1975 Total £m	1975 By air £m	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports of commodity %
00 Live animals	77	15	1	19	108	9	0	8
05 Fruit and vegetables	661	13	1	2	700	17	1	2
08 Feeding stuff for animals	127	0	0	0	111	0	0	0
21 Hides and skins	106	41	1	39	107	36	1	34
28 Metalliferous ores and scrap	534	117	4	22	476	66	2	14
51 Chemical elements and compounds	717	71	2	10	672	53	2	8
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	92	45	1	49	97	47	2	48
55 Essential oils and perfumes	76	12	0	16	69	11	0	16
61 Leather and leather manufactures, not elsewhere specified	61	9	0	15	69	10	0	14
62 Rubber manufactures, not elsewhere specified	88	8	0	9	97	7	0	7
65 Textile yarn, etc.	688	66	2	10	683	66	2	10
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, not elsewhere specified	983	709	23	72	1,078	812	25	75
67 Iron and steel	717	5	0	1	821	5	0	1
68 Non-ferrous metals	1,009	57	2	6	820	133	4	16
69 Manufactures of metal, not elsewhere specified	287	40	1	14	332	38	1	11
71 Machinery other than electric	1,959	649	21	33	2,298	704	21	31
72 Electrical machinery	1,010	405	13	40	1,045	424	13	41
73 Transport equipment	858	65	2	8	1,119	94	3	8
84 Clothing	402	82	3	20	505	113	3	22
85 Footwear	109	12	1	11	123	13	1	11
86 Professional and scientific instruments	378	180	6	48	447	207	6	46
89 Miscellaneous manufactures, not elsewhere specified	643	213	7	33	646	207	6	32
All other goods	11,702	272	9	2	11,740	235	7	2
Total	23,284	3,086	100	13	24,163	3,307	100	14

TABLE 3(a) Commodity composition of imports cif by weight

Selected divisions	1974 Total '000s metric tonnes	1974 By air '000s metric tonnes	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports of commodity %	1975 Total '000s metric tonnes	1975 By air '000s metric tonnes	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports of commodity %
00 Live animals	187	2	1	1	239	1	1	0
05 Fruit and vegetables	3,398	27	10	1	3,372	31	16	1
08 Feeding stuff for animals	1,305	14	6	1	1,321	0	0	0
21 Hides and skins	78	2	1	3	70	2	1	3
28 Metalliferous ores and scrap	22,161	1	0	0	17,609	0	0	0
51 Chemical elements and compounds	3,092	4	2	0	2,512	1	1	0
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	15	2	1	13	10	2	1	20
55 Essential oils and perfumes	59	1	0	2	43	1	1	2
61 Leather and leather manufactures, not elsewhere specified	30	1	0	3	34	1	1	3
62 Rubber manufactures not elsewhere specified	103	2	1	2	94	1	0	1
65 Textile yarn, etc.	439	14	6	3	411	12	6	3
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures not elsewhere specified	988	5	2	1	679	3	1	0
67 Iron and steel	4,376	7	3	0	4,198	6	3	0
68 Non-ferrous metals	1,395	4	2	0	1,177	4	2	0
69 Manufactures of metal, not elsewhere specified	323	12	5	4	349	6	3	2
71 Machinery other than electric	859	44	17	5	823	39	20	5
72 Electrical machinery	292	33	13	11	217	15	8	7
73 Transport equipment	907	10	4	1	786	8	4	1
84 Clothing	81	10	4	12	95	13	7	14
85 Footwear	53	3	1	6	51	2	1	4
86 Professional and scientific instruments	59	10	4	17	54	7	4	13
89 Miscellaneous manufactures, not elsewhere specified	320	17	6	5	267	13	7	5
All other goods	174,485	29	11	0	144,752	23	12	0
Total	215,005	254	100	0.1	179,163	191	100	0.1

TABLE 4 Exports fob to various areas by value

	1974 Total £m	1974 By air £m	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports to area %	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %	1975 Total £m	1975 By air £m	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports to area %	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %
EEC	5,516	876	16	30	6,420	982	15	29
Rest of Western Europe	2,952	585	20	20	3,372	707	21	21
North America	2,267	660	29	23	2,332	639	27	19
Other developed countries	1,699	230	14	8	1,879	245	13	7
Oil exporting countries	1,210	156	13	5	2,278	330	14	10
Other developing countries	2,381	366	15	13	2,923	446	15	13
Centrally planned economies	515	41	8	1	666	34	5	1
Low value trade	60	N/A			59	N/A		
World	16,600	2,914	18	100	19,929	3,383	17	100

the rise in value of imports by air. The value of non-ferrous metals imported by air increased by £76 million to a level 132 per cent up on 1974 due wholly to greater imports of silver. Another commodity where the proportion imported by air, in value terms, markedly increased in 1975 was clothing, 38 per cent up on 1974 at £113 million. Air imports of most commodities, by weight, fell in 1975, the most marked change being in arrivals of electrical machinery which fell from 33,000 metric tonnes to 15,000 metric tonnes.

Tables 4 and 4A outline the distribution of air exports, both by value and by weight, to the major areas of the world. Against the 16 per cent rise in the value of total air exports, deliveries by air to the oil exporting countries increased by 111 per cent, thus improving its share of total air exports to 10 per cent, 5 per cent up on 1974. In terms of weight this improvement was even more marked with air shipments to this area increasing from 9 per cent of total air exports to 21 per cent. In contrast, however, exports by weight to all other areas fell in 1975 though the value of air shipments to Western Europe, the other developed countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa) and the other developing countries increased by 16, 6 and 22 per cent respectively. Apart from the oil exporting countries, these changes did little to affect the general distribution of exports by air. By value, 50 per cent of air exports went to Western Europe in 1975, a similar proportion to total exports. By weight this market accounted for 38 per cent of air exports.

Further information on the breakdown of UK air exports by area is provided in Tables 5 and 5A. The USA remains the UK's largest single market for exports by air as it is our largest market for total exports. Shipments were £30 million less than in 1974, at £524 million, but the United States still accounted for 16 per cent of all air exports by value (against 19 per cent in 1974). 30 per cent of total exports by

TABLE 4(a) Exports to various areas by weight

	1974				1975			
			Air exports as a proportion of:				Air exports as a proportion of:	
	Total '000s metric tonnes	By air '000s metric tonnes	Total exports to area %	Total air exports %	Total '000s metric tonnes	By air '000s metric tonnes	Total exports to area %	Total air exports %
EEC	29,520	130	0.4	36	27,946	77	0.3	28
Rest of Western Europe	11,868	46	0.4	13	10,630	28	0.3	10
North America	3,859	73	1.9	20	3,141	51	1.6	19
Other developed countries	2,295	27	1.2	7	1,919	14	0.7	5
Oil exporting countries	2,433	32	1.3	9	3,727	58	1.6	21
Other developing countries	4,064	51	1.3	14	3,998	44	1.1	16
Centrally planned economies	810	5	0.6	1	1,044	3	0.3	1
World	54,849	364	0.7	100	52,405	275	0.5	100

TABLE 5 Exports fob to selected countries by value

	1974				1975			
			Air exports as a proportion of:				Air exports as a proportion of:	
Selected countries	Total £m	By air £m	Total exports to country %	Total air exports %	Total £m	By air £m	Total exports to country %	Total air exports %
EEC								
Western Germany	1,026	198	19	7	1,304	240	18	7
Netherlands	983	75	8	2	1,115	89	8	3
France	914	182	20	6	1,165	204	18	6
Belgium and Luxembourg	835	229	27	8	922	252	27	8
Irish Republic	820	77	9	3	907	75	8	2
Italy	510	91	18	3	563	96	17	3
Denmark	427	24	6	1	443	25	6	1
Rest of Western Europe								
Sweden	732	58	8	2	826	57	7	2
Switzerland	672	379	56	13	805	484	60	14
Austria	153	20	13	1	165	20	12	1
Spain	260	39	15	1	295	43	15	1
Portugual	185	20	11	1	158	15	9	0
North America								
USA	1,764	554	31	19	1,770	524	30	16
Canada	488	106	22	3	539	115	21	3
Other developed countries								
Australia	599	64	11	2	632	67	11	2
South Africa	525	55	10	2	685	66	10	2
Japan	319	99	31	3	309	96	31	3
Oil exporters								
Iran	279	25	9	1	495	46	9	1
Nigeria	222	26	12	1	512	84	16	2
Saudi Arabia	119	28	24	1	200	49	25	1
Other developing countries								
Israel	219	101	46	3	237	103	43	3
Hong Kong	158	20	13	1	160	31	19	1
Singapore	153	19	12	1	157	27	17	1
Brazil	142	26	18	1	161	25	16	1
India	126	26	21	1	164	36	22	1
Sierra Leone	18	1	6	0	21	2	10	0
Centrally planned economies								
Soviet Union	109	3	3	0	210	4	2	0
Total selected countries	12,757	2,545	20	87	14,920	2,875	19	85
All other countries	3,783	369	10	13	4,950	508	10	15
Low value trade	60				59			
World	16,600	2,914	18	100	19,929	3,383	17	100

TABLE 5(a) Exports to selected countries by weight

Selected countries	1974 Total '000s metric tonnes	1974 By air '000s metric tonnes	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports to country %	1974 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %	1975 Total '000s metric tonnes	1975 By air '000s metric tonnes	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total exports to country %	1975 Air exports as a proportion of: Total air exports %
EEC								
Western Germany	3,903	26	0.7	7	3,850	15	0.4	6
Netherlands	7,540	23	0.3	6	7,542	15	0.2	5
France	4,335	25	0.6	7	3,799	14	0.4	5
Belgium and Luxembourg	3,591	14	0.4	4	3,472	8	0.2	3
Irish Republic	5,365	28	0.5	8	5,075	16	0.3	6
Italy	1,316	10	0.7	3	1,436	7	0.5	3
Denmark	3,469	4	0.1	1	2,773	2	0.1	1
Rest of Western Europe								
Sweden	4,830	10	0.2	3	4,344	5	0.1	2
Switzerland and Austria	623	10	1.6	3	476	6	1.1	2
Spain	1,101	6	0.5	2	1,242	6	0.5	2
Portugal	429	4	0.8	1	528	2	0.3	1
North America								
USA	3,125	56	1.8	16	2,556	39	1.5	14
Canada	734	16	2.2	5	586	12	2.1	4
Other developed countries								
Australia	765	7	1.0	2	665	5	0.7	2
South Africa	744	12	1.6	3	755	6	0.7	2
Japan	377	6	1.6	2	201	3	1.3	1
Oil exporters								
Iran	407	4	0.9	1	1,043	6	0.5	2
Nigeria	671	7	1.1	2	998	18	1.8	7
Saudi Arabia	181	6	3.3	2	198	5	2.7	2
Other developing countries								
Israel	230	2	0.9	1	160	2	1.0	1
Hong Kong	226	2	0.8	1	135	1	1.1	1
Singapore	425	3	0.8	1	277	3	1.2	1
Brazil	221	3	1.6	1	195	2	1.2	1
India	199	3	1.5	1	196	3	1.8	1
Sierra Leone	70	0	0.4	0	128	0	0.1	0
Centrally planned economies								
Soviet Union	178	0	0.2	0	298	0	0.1	0
Total selected countries	45,056	289	0.6	79	42,926	201	0.5	73
All other countries	9,793	75	0.8	21	9,479	74	0.8	27
World	54,849	364	0.7	100	52,405	275	0.5	100

TABLE 6 Imports cif from various areas by value

	1974 Total £m	1974 By air £m	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from area %	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1975 Total £m	1975 By air £m	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports to area %	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %
EEC	7,730	733	9	24	8,805	811	9	24
Rest of Western Europe	3,469	577	17	19	3,566	573	16	17
North America	3,249	932	29	30	3,208	945	29	29
Other developed countries	1,685	333	20	11	1,855	390	21	12
Oil exporting countries	3,785	47	1	1	3,274	49	1	1
Other developing countries	2,591	273	11	9	2,665	349	13	11
Centrally planned economies	751	191	25	6	753	190	25	6
Low value trade	24	N/A			37	N/A		
World	23,284	3,086	13	100	24,163	3,307	14	100

TABLE 6(a) Imports from various areas by weight

	1974 Total '000s metric tonnes	1974 By air '000s metric tonnes	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from area %	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1975 Total '000s metric tonnes	1975 By air '000s metric tonnes	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from area %	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %
EEC	39,037	96	0.2	38	38,404	51	0.1	27
Rest of Western Europe	20,347	29	0.1	11	17,641	24	0.1	12
North America	16,076	83	0.5	33	13,163	65	0.5	34
Other developed countries	6,248	8	0.1	3	7,565	9	0.1	5
Oil exporting countries	108,944	3	0	1	82,366	3	0	2
Other developing countries	18,860	33	0.2	13	14,655	35	0.2	18
Centrally planned economies	5,493	2	0	1	5,369	4	0.1	2
World	215,005	254	0.1	100	179,163	191	0.1	100

value to the USA were despatched by air in 1975. Air exports to Switzerland, the next largest market for such deliveries, increased by 28 per cent to £484 million, 14 per cent of all exports by air and 60 per cent of total exports to Switzerland. This high level reflects the entrepôt diamond trade. Weight figures are only available for Switzerland and Austria taken together. Exports by air to these two countries in 1975 accounted by weight for only 2 per cent of total air exports (against 15 per cent by value) and 1 per cent of all exports to these countries (against 52 per cent by value). Diamonds also explain the high percentage in value terms of exports by air in proportion to total exports to Israel (43 per cent) and Belgium and Luxembourg (27 per cent).

The most marked increases in exports by air were to the oil exporting countries, in line with the increase in total exports to these countries reflecting their increased import demand following the oil price rises at the end of 1973. In 1975 exports by air to our three largest markets within this group, Iran, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, increased in value by 80, 224 and 76 per cent respectively.

As Tables 6 and 6A show, on the import side, Western Europe accounted for 41 per cent of all air imports by value in 1975 and 39 per cent by weight. North America accounted for 29 per cent of air arrivals by value and 34 per cent by weight in the same period.

In 1975 air imports rose in value by 7 per cent despite the fall in the weight of such arrivals. The sources of these imports in value are broadly similar to 1974. The most marked increase in the value of imports by air was from the other developing countries which rose by 28 per cent to £349 million. The weight of arrivals increased by 6 per cent. Imports by air from the EEC increased by 11 per cent to £811 million while those from the other developed countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa) rose by 17 per cent to £390 million. Imports by air from the rest of Western Europe, North America, the oil exporting countries and the centrally planned economies remained broadly static in value in 1975. In weight terms, the most significant change in 1975 was the decline in air imports from the EEC as a percentage of total air imports from 38 per cent to 27 per cent.

In value terms the proportion of imports delivered by air increased only slightly during 1975. A breakdown by major countries is given in Table 7. There was a slight fall in the proportion of imports arriving by air from the USA which has traditionally been the largest source for UK air imports. With £858 million of imports coming by air, 37 per cent of total imports from the country, the USA accounted for 26 per cent of total air imports in value. By weight the USA accounted for 32 per cent of total air imports. Only India, improving from 25 per cent to 40 per cent, shows any sharp rise in the proportion of imports by value delivered by air. The value of imports arriving from

TABLE 7 Imports cif from selected countries by value

Selected countries	1974 Total £m	1974 By air £m	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from country %	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1975 Total £m	1975 By air £m	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from country %	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %
EEC								
Western Germany	1,902	243	13	8	1,999	237	12	7
Netherlands	1,637	76	5	3	1,873	79	4	3
France	1,349	203	15	7	1,628	234	14	7
Belgium and Luxembourg	731	87	12	3	952	130	14	4
Irish Republic	810	45	6	1	921	46	5	1
Italy	724	63	9	2	810	68	8	2
Denmark	577	16	3	1	622	17	3	1
Rest of Western Europe								
Sweden	929	32	3	1	886	33	4	1
Switzerland	765	432	56	14	737	443	60	13
Austria	205	15	7	0	204	13	6	0
Spain	262	13	5	0	278	16	6	1
Portugal	236	52	22	2	201	41	20	1
North America								
USA	2,249	840	37	27	2,328	858	37	26
Canada	984	81	8	3	856	87	10	3
Other developed countries								
Australia	312	11	4	0	279	11	4	0
South Africa	555	265	48	9	636	314	49	10
Japan	570	55	10	2	672	63	9	2
Oil exporters								
Iran	513	4	1	0	701	7	1	0
Nigeria	368	2	1	0	310	3	1	0
Saudi Arabia	1,178	12	1	0	857	8	1	0
Other developing countries								
Israel	79	11	14	0	91	13	14	0
Hong Kong	293	34	12	1	307	49	16	2
Singapore	75	14	19	0	65	16	25	1
Brazil	195	9	5	0	175	9	5	0
India	204	50	25	2	237	95	40	3
Sierra Leone	42	37	88	1	33	27	82	1
Centrally planned economies								
Soviet Union	396	178	45	6	408	180	44	5
Total selected countries	18,140	2,880	16	93	19,066	3,097	16	94
All other countries	5,120	206	4	7	5,060	210	4	6
Low value trade	24				37			
World	23,284	3,086	13	100	24,163	3,307	14	100

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TABLE 7(a) Imports from selected countries by weight

Selected countries	1974 Total '000s metric tonnes	1974 By air '000s metric tonnes	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1974 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from country %	1975 Total '000s metric tonnes	1975 By air '000s metric tonnes	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total air imports %	1975 Air imports as a proportion of: Total imports from country %
EEC								
Western Germany	4,106	31	13	0.7	3,794	13	7	0.3
Netherlands	13,757	9	4	0.1	15,357	6	3	0
France	6,147	16	6	0.3	5,392	11	6	0.2
Belgium and Luxembourg	3,795	8	3	0.2	4,791	8	4	0.2
Irish Republic	6,799	23	9	0.3	5,291	7	4	0.1
Italy	3,036	8	3	0.3	2,304	6	3	0.3
Denmark	1,395	2	1	0.1	1,475	1	1	0.1
Rest of Western Europe								
Sweden	8,910	3	1	0	5,686	2	1	0
Switzerland and Austria	645	7	3	1.0	548	5	3	0.9
Spain	1,641	10	4	0.6	1,479	9	1	0.6
Portugal	713	2	1	0.3	448	2	1	0.5
North America								
USA	6,435	78	31	1.2	6,044	61	32	1.0
Canada	9,641	5	2	0.1	7,119	4	2	0.1
Other developed countries								
Australia	3,209	1	0	0	4,389	1	1	0
South Africa	1,829	1	0	0.1	1,772	4	2	0.2
Japan	719	5	2	0.7	875	4	2	0.5
Oil exporters								
Iran	15,006	1	0	0	17,771	0	0	0
Nigeria	8,201	1	0	0	6,056	1	1	0
Saudi Arabia	36,176	0	0	0	22,397	0	0	0
Other developing countries								
Israel	464	4	2	0.8	442	4	2	0.8
Hong Kong	144	4	2	2.5	126	6	3	4.5
Singapore	790	1	0	0.2	645	1	1	0.2
Brazil	4,008	1	0	0	2,833	1	1	0
India	506	8	3	1.7	365	8	4	2.2
Sierra Leone	19	0	0	0	51	0	0	0
Centrally planned economies								
Soviet Union	2,854	0	0	0	3,604	3	2	0.1
Total selected countries	140,945	229	90	0.2	121,054	168	88	0.1
All other countries	74,060	25	10	0	58,109	23	12	0
World	215,005	254	100	0.1	179,163	191	100	0.1

India using air freight increased by 89 per cent to £95 million in 1975 against a 16 per cent increase in value for all imports from the country. Air trade is particularly important as far as imports from Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Sierra Leone and South Africa are concerned, in each case the value of air imports being at least 40 per cent of the total imports. Once again trade in diamonds explain these large percentage figures.

Note

The valuation of exports and imports in this article is on an overseas trade statistics basis. While estimates for total trade are published on a balance of payments basis in the monthly trade article, the adjustments to that basis are not available for the analysis of trade by air.

No allowance is made either in the totals of trade or in the figures of trade by air for the under-recording of exports in 1969-71 and 1973-74.

Complete newly-built aircraft and ships exported and imported under their own power are included in the value totals for all United Kingdom trade but are excluded from the figures of trade by air and from the weight statistics.

Imports and exports of parcel post and low value items not classified according to kind are excluded from the trade by air and the weight statistics.

Further data on trade by air may be obtained from the Controller, Statistical Office, HM Customs and Excise, Portcullis House, 27 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6AL, on payment of a fee to cover the cost of preparing the information.

Social Trends No. 6

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HMSO BOOKS

'Economic Progress Report' on the North Sea and the balance of payments

The leading article in the July issue of *Economic Progress Report* looks at the impact of the North Sea oil and gas programme on the UK balance of payments.

The article explains that there is no simple answer to the question – how will North Sea oil affect the balance of payments? The estimates of the potential effects set out in the tables in the article are highly tentative and are based of necessity on a range of arbitrary assumptions. In particular, a constant real price of oil is assumed and the underlying increase in net foreign exchange earnings from the North Sea programme is assumed to be devoted exclusively to improving the balance of payments. It is also assumed that in the absence of the North Sea programme the pressure of demand would be the same.

The estimates are expressed in money of the day terms and are therefore sensitive to the arbitrary assumptions made about world inflation. For this reason, the results of the exercise are expressed in terms of percentage of GNP.

The North Sea oil programme has swollen the current account deficit in recent years. Imports of goods and services for oil exploration and development are estimated to have been about £¾–£1 billion last year. These imports added to the current account deficit as oil did not begin to come ashore until the latter part of the year, but they are believed to have been matched by capital inflows on a similar scale.

This year, however, the value of North Sea oil production, in terms of oil exports or oil imports saved, is expected to be almost as high as the cost of imports for the North Sea programme, and the net effects on the current account may be about neutral. Capital inflows associated with the development programme are expected to amount to £1 billion this year.

In the years ahead, the volume and value of oil production are expected to increase sharply, while the volume of imports for oil exploration and development are expected to fall after reaching a peak this year. If the present oil price were maintained in real terms, and the underlying increase in net foreign exchange earnings from the North Sea programme were devoted exclusively to improving the balance of payments, the favourable effect on the current account could be equivalent to between 3 and 4 per cent of GNP at the beginning of the 1980s, compared with a situation where we had no oil. Capital flows associated with the development programme are expected to diminish slowly but to remain favourable throughout the period.

North Sea gas is already providing import savings equivalent to some 2 per cent of GNP.

Other benefits from North Sea oil and gas

The Treasury's latest monthly economic assessment (on pages 5-7) looks at some of the other ways in which the UK economy stands to benefit from North Sea resources – in respect of government revenue, investment and employment.

Assuming 1975 prices and costs it is estimated that oil revenues in the early 1980s may amount to some £3–£3½ billion a year in terms of 1975 money. This is similar to the yield of VAT in 1975 and may be compared with £15 billion yielded by income tax.

Forecasting investment in oil exploration and production is extremely hazardous since it depends so much on unknown factors including the timing and extent of future licensing rounds and the development of new technologies for oil and gas extraction. Gross domestic fixed capital formation in North Sea oil and gas in 1975 is provisionally estimated at about £1.7 billion and accounted for 24 per cent of total industrial fixed capital formation in that year.

It is estimated that there are at least 80,000 people employed directly or indirectly in the UK on work related to North Sea oil. Over 50,000 of these jobs are in Scotland.

Continuing recovery of the economy

The monthly economic assessment also shows that economic activity has now been recovering for nine months. Exports appear to represent a stronger stimulus than had been expected, but little has been contributed so far by the rebuilding of stocks and by retail sales. There are signs of more interest in investment, and company finances are improving.

The attack on inflation – the second year

A short article on page 3 summarises the main points contained in the White Paper, published on 30 June, setting out the programme for carrying forward the attack on inflation during the year ahead (see also *Trade and Industry*, 9 July, page 73).

Household spending in 1975

A short note on page 4 sets out some of the first results of the Family Expenditure Survey which were recently published in the June issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*. (See also page 119 of *Trade and Industry*, 9 July.)

Economic indicators

The 12 charts on the back page give a broad view of the movements of some of the main economic indicators in the economy since 1974; a table containing the most recent figures is included on page 7.

Economic Progress Report, prepared by the Treasury Information Division, is published every month. It contains articles on economic subjects, analysing or giving background to Government economic policy, together with the Treasury's assessment of the economic situation and a table and charts of economic indicators.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

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A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (6M)	This week
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	18 June 1976
trends in invisible transactions	16 Apr. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	9 Jul y1976
By regions	28 May 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	This week
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 July 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	14 May 1976
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	11 June 1976
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Gt. Britain (M)	4 June 1976
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industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	11 June 1976
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Regional development grants (Q)	7 May 1976
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	4 June 1976
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	14 May 1976
Retail prices index (M)	25 June 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	9 July 1976
amendment	This week
provisional figures (M)	18 June 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	2 July 1976
stocks (M)	This week
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	25 June 1976
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	9 July 1976
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	2 July 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	9 July 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	This week
retail (M)	This week
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	23 Apr. 1976
carpet sales (M)	25 June 1976
cotton industry production (M)	This week
hosiery production (M)	25 June 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	2 July 1976
wholesale houses' sales (M)	This week
wool exports (Q)	28 May 1976
wool output (M)	This week
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	19 Mar. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	9 Apr. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	This week

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	16 Apr. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	4 June 1976
ECGD local offices	2 July 1976
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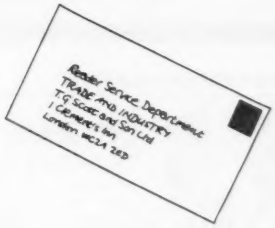

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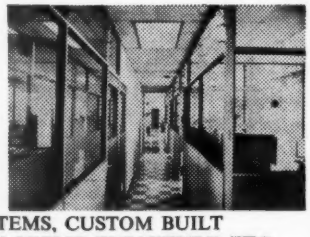

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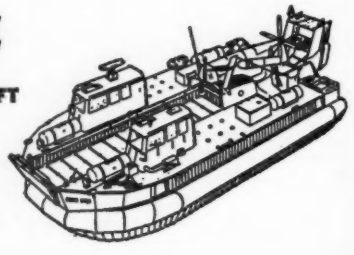

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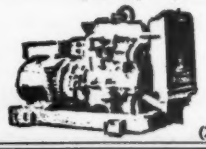

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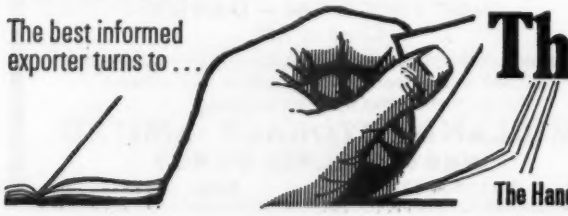

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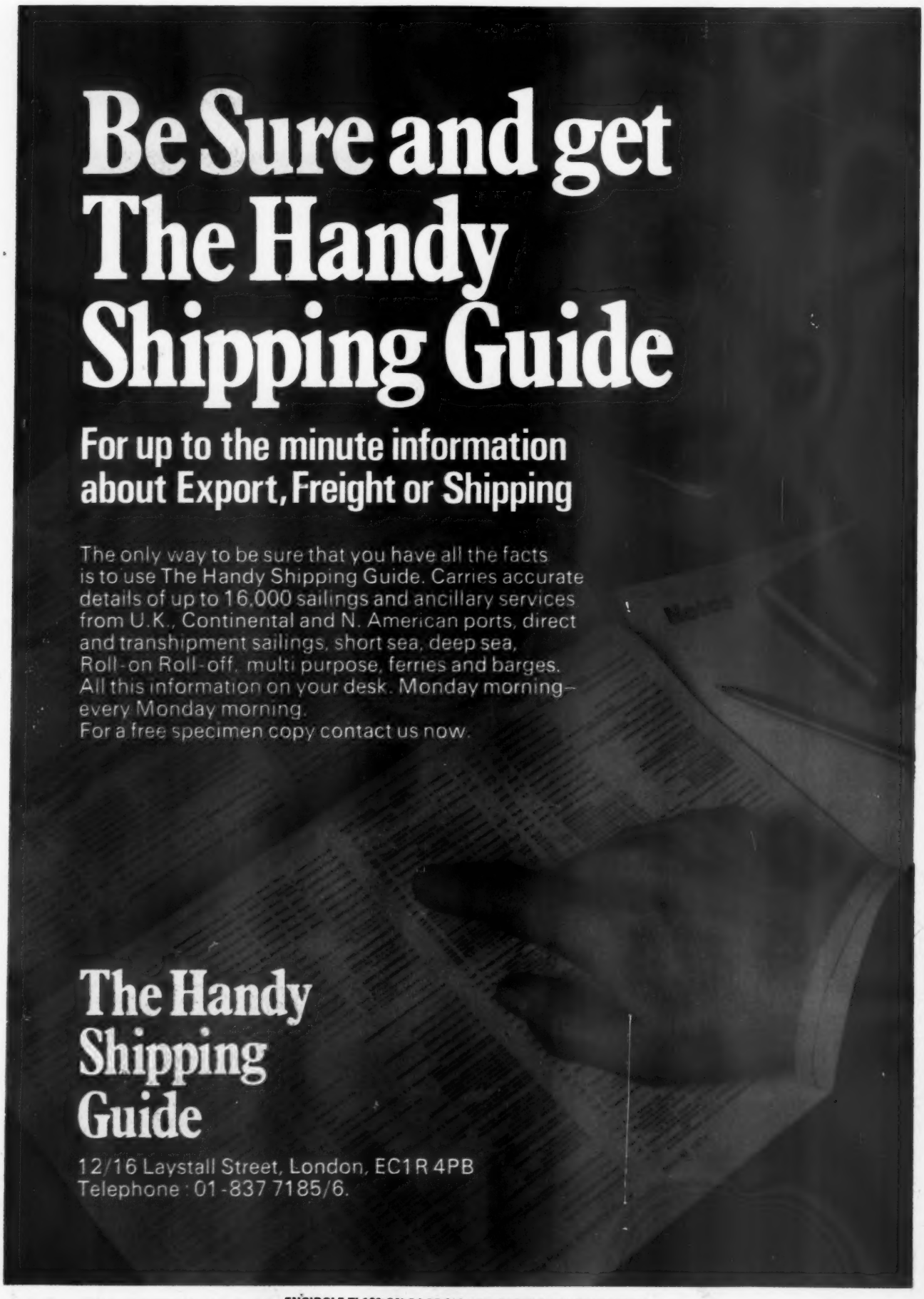

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